SPORTS / A19

Why Tiger isn't happy about his World Golf Championship victory

BUSINESS / B1

T-bill rates decline across the board

ENTERTAINMENT / A24

Happy: Aiko told me I was ugly

METRO / A15

Police kill 5 kidnap suspects in Caloocan raid

Elite Australian troops join hunt for JI terrorists in RP

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA—ELITE AUSTRALIAN troops have joined the hunt for Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) terrorists in the Philippines, newspapers reported Sunday.

JI is said to have ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

A week after terrorist bombings on the Indonesian island of Bali killed 23 people, in-

ELITE/ A5

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Tuesday, October 11, 2005 ★★★ 3 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 305 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Thanks to Viagra, eight animal species are saved

SYDNEY—THE ADVENT of male impotency drugs has brought unexpected benefits to the animal kingdom, which no longer needs to sacrifice seals, deer and turtles to make traditional cures for erectile

THANKS/ A5

MAY PAKINABANG DIN PALA ANG MGA HAYOP D'YAN

Palace: No martial law

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo shows exuberance before pro-administration local government officials during the observance of the 14th anniversary of the Local Government Code at the Manila Hotel. This year's theme is "Kilos Lokal Asenso Nasyonal (Move locally for national development)." *(See story on Page A2.)* EDWIN BACASMAS

Ermita says dreaded EO about land administration

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Armand N. Nocum and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SQUELCHED REPORTS THAT PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo was about to place the country under martial law, but an opposition leader said she need not formally declare it to exercise martial law powers.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita laughed off persistent talk that the President was poised to impose martial law in the face of the relentless efforts by the opposition to force her out of power.

"This talk is all nonsense. The President has no such plans," Ermita said.

He dismissed as "*kuryente*" (a bum steer) the reported implementation of emergency rule supposedly through Executive Order No. 467 to thwart the protests against the administration.

Earlier, a newspaper (not the INQUIRER) reported that the President had signed EO 467 to pave the way for the rounding up of political dissenters without warrants of arrest.

The EO turned out to be a harmless fiat signed by Ms Arroyo on Oct. 5 aimed at strengthening the second phase of the government's Land Administration and Management project.

A copy of EO 467 was forwarded to Malacañang's records division yesterday morning but the keepers refused to give media a copy, saying it was set for release today. It took the Office of the Executive Secretary almost six hours to grant an INQUIRER request for a copy of EO 467.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Presidential Legal Counsel Merceditas Gutierrez had told him there was "no such thing as EO 467," as claimed in published reports.

Gutierrez and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said they had not prepared an "emergency declaration" for the President, according to Bunye.

In a press briefing at his department, however, Gonzalez said he had drafted a five-page proclamation seeking to declare "a state of national emergency" to allow the government to take over key industries.

"I have redrafted the research papers I have before for the state of national emergency ... but the intent is for an economic emergency. There is nothing there about a revolutionary government," Gonzalez told reporters.

He said all the conditions necessary for declaring a state of emergency and for taking over of vital industries were not yet in place.

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Ms Arroyo had started resort-

PALACE/ A14

Joker to argue Senate case vs Gonzales in high court

By TJ Burgonio

SENATOR JOKER ARROYO CONFESSES IT'S been two decades since he put on black robes and stood before the Supreme Court.

He is doing it again today—to tell the high tribunal it should not allow the release of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales from Senate custody unless he answers questions on a deal he signed with a US lobby firm on July 25.

The P50-million contract with Venable LLP seeks US funding for President Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to amend the Constitution and introduce the parliamentary system—a move critics said invited foreign interference in a Philippine sovereign undertaking.

Yesterday, the Senate approved Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan's resolution authorizing Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, to argue the case for the upper chamber at the 1 p.m. hearing for the issuance of a writ of habeas corpus filed by Gonzales and his family.

The Senate resolution was passed hours after Arroyo himself filed a comment with the

JOKER/ A5

US cool to RP offer of help in spy case

By Leila B. Salaverria and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG IS OFFERING TO help Washington unravel the first espionage case to be uncovered in the White House and prosecute all those involved, including President Macapagal-Arroyo's rivals who may have benefited from it. But Washington is apparently not biting.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez expressed disappointment that the United States had neither asked the Philippines for help in its investigation of Leandro Aragoncillo and Michael Ray Aquino nor had it responded to his request for information.

"That is the problem with the Americans," said Gonzalez. "I wrote them a letter and they have not even answered ... maybe it's been a month now. They meddle with us and then they don't cooperate with us."

However, he said US legal attaché Jeffrey Cole had told him the documents that Aquino allegedly pilfered could not be revealed until the grand jury unseals the records. With the recent indictment of Aquino, Gonzalez said he was unsure if this confidentiality still held. He also noted Aragoncillo was still working on a plea bargain.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Philippines was "under obligation" to provide whatever help it could give the US investigators.

Should the Aragoncillo-Aquino case turn out to be a conspiracy, all participants, as a general rule, "are liable whether they are the ones who directly made the act or were part of the plan," Bunye said.

He said that had the espionage case happened in Malacañang, the recipients of the classified information would surely be penalized. "Under our laws, the act of one is the act of all," he said.

Aragoncillo, a Philippine-born former US Marine who worked at the White House for almost three years before leaving to take a job with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), allegedly gave Filipino politicians documents filched from US Vice President Dick Cheney's office. The documents were reported to be damaging to Ms Arroyo.

The 46-year-old Aragoncillo was arrested in New Jersey last month along with Aquino, a former Philip-

US COOL/ A14

Quake death toll seen reaching 40,000

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—RELIEF OFFICIALS yesterday gave little hope for earthquake victims—many of them children—still trapped under the rubble of their flattened homes and schools, and voiced fears the death toll from the weekend temblor would hit 40,000.

In freezing temperatures, hundreds of thousands of survivors, many of them dazed, desperately waited for food, water and medicine in Pakistani Kashmir, the region hardest hit by the 7.6-magnitude quake.

An estimated 60,000 people were injured.

"Some areas have not yet even been reached or assessed," said Gerhard Putman-Cramer, head of the UN's Disaster Assessment and Coordination (Undac) team.

If trapped in concrete and steel buildings, like those constructed in big cities, people had a chance of surviving for three to four days if they were mercifully caught in a "pocket," said Swiss national Alain Pasche of Undac.

The houses in Kashmir, however, are block buildings that are quickly reduced to rubble by a large quake.

"In these cases, if you're outside you're alive. If you're inside you're dead," Pasche said.

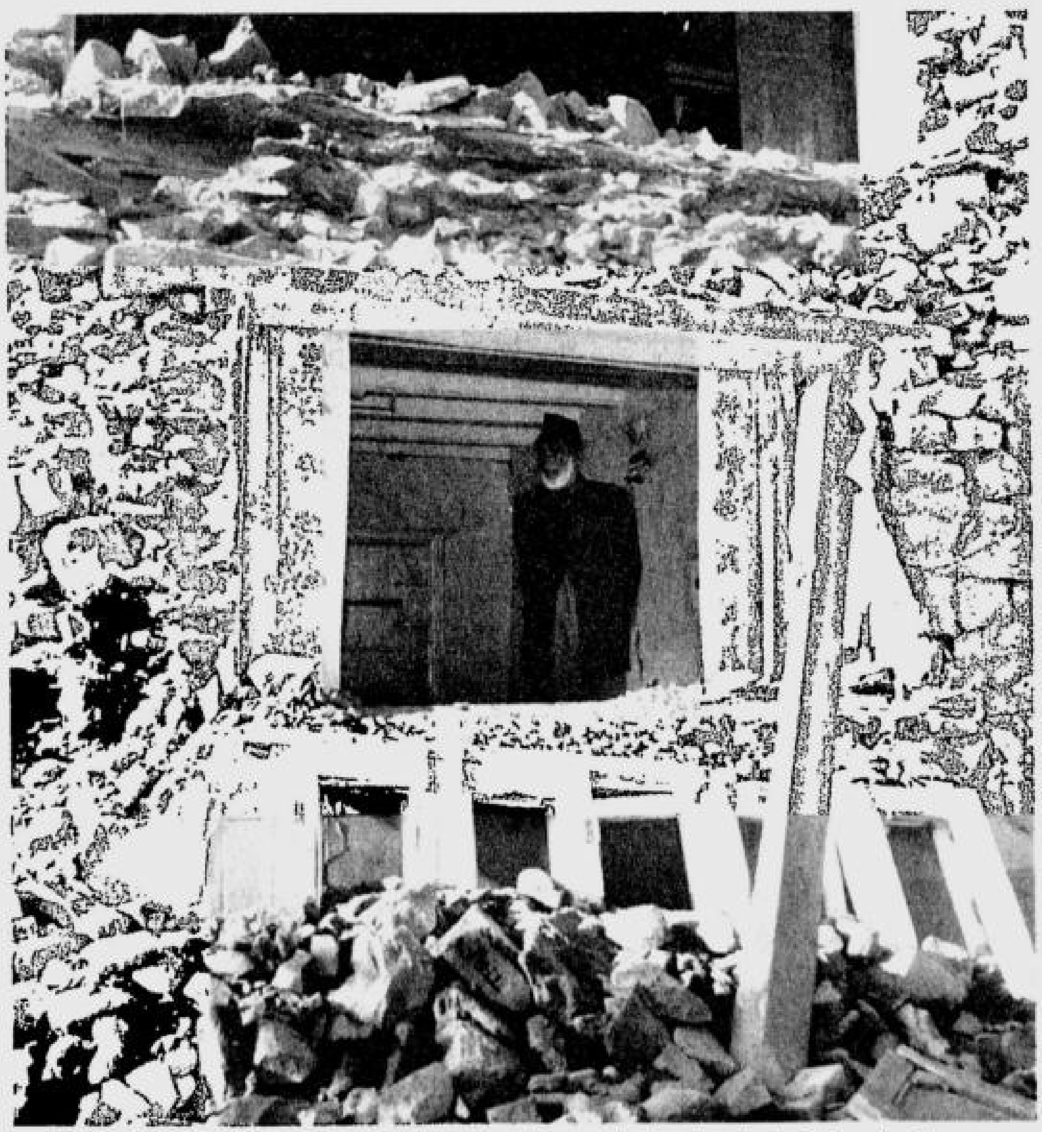
Tragedies have a way of bringing people together—even adversaries.

Saturday's devastating earthquake joined rivals Pakistan and India in a common grief and offered them a chance to shed past hostilities and make peace.

But that might be just wishful thinking.

"The negotiating table decides the power equation. That equation of power is not going to change by an earthquake. Nothing is decided by goodwill," said Ajai Sahni, the head of the Institute for Conflict Management think

QUAKE/ A14



EARTH'S FURY. An Indian Kashmiri man must be wondering what he had done to deserve what happened to his home in Srinagar, wrecked by Saturday's earthquake. AFP

COMPUTER SAVVY Overseas Filipino workers take basic computer lessons in Microsoft Word, spreadsheets and the Internet at the Owwa-Microsoft Tulay: Unlimited Potential program for OFWs in Hong Kong. NIKKO DIZON

74 maids gain access to cyberspace

By Nikko Dizon

HONG KONG—THE LAST TIME OVERseas Filipino worker Merhz Bauat tapped her fingers on a computer keyboard was seven years ago, when she was taking a computer secretarial course in her hometown in Nueva Ecija.

But after working as a domestic helper here for the last five years, she admitted that she had forgotten everything about computers, including how to turn one on.

"*Hindi ko nagamit ang pinag-aralan ko kaya nawala lahat* (I wasn't able to apply what I had studied so I forgot everything)," she told the INQUIRER.

But a training program, spearheaded by Microsoft and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), has given the articulate 34-year-old the opportunity to reacquaint herself with basic computer education.

On Sunday, Bauat and 73 other household helpers like her graduated from Microsoft and Owwa's Tulay: An Unlimited Potential program for overseas Filipino workers in Hong Kong.

In the past two months, they took up courses in basic computer knowledge, Microsoft Word and Excel spreadsheets.

This week, they begin their lessons on

74 MAIDS/ A14

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: At 2 p.m. yesterday, the center of Tropical Storm "Nando," upgraded from Tropical Depression, was estimated at 1,290 km northeast of Northern Luzon with maximum sustained winds of 65 kph near the center and gustiness up to 80 kph. It is forecast to move west at 9 kph. Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) across Luzon. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/10/10/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Villar sees rough sailing in Senate for antiterror bill

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Norman Bordadora

THE CHAIR OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON public order yesterday said he could not guarantee passage of the antiterror bill because his colleagues were worried not only about its timing but also of the possibility that embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo would use it against her political opponents.

Sen. Manuel Villar said he had been informed that at least two senators who had submitted drafts for his committee's consideration were now having second thoughts and planned to withdraw as co-authors.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of one of two House committees drafting the proposed new law, however, had a more sanguine view, saying he expected the bill to clear both houses of Congress before the end of the month and to be signed into law by Ms Arroyo by early November.

"It's the timing of the anti-terrorism bill," Villar told reporters. "If we tackle it now, there will really be a discussion on (its effects) on human rights and this will surely have a political color because of the issues against President GMA."

"I heard at least two senators who were previously promoting this bill aggressively are now having second thoughts because of the possibility that this would be used by the administration (against its opponents)," he said.

He was apparently referring to opposition Senators Panfilo Lacson and Jinggoy Estrada who said they planned to withdraw as authors of the antiterror bill because of Malacañang's move to insert anti-opposition provisions in the measure.

"I might be the first one to be arrested under my bill," Lacson said.

Villar said he could give no assurance that the antiterror bill, once enacted into law, would not be used against the President's political foes. "Nobody can give that assurance except the one who will implement the law," he said.

Villar said he is prepared to report out to the full Senate the committee report consolidating five antiterror bills on Wednesday. But he added that he might ask Senate President Franklin Drilon to call a caucus to decide what to do with the measure, which Malacañang wants passed immediately in light of recent terrors attacks here and abroad.

"I am concerned about the timing but I cannot decide on it alone. So it's better if the Senate as a whole will come out with one position on this issue," Villar said, adding the chamber as a whole should decide whether to pass the bill immediately or defer its passage.

At the House, Cuenco told reporters the bill's proponents had secured assurances from Ms Arroyo she would certify the draft as urgent as soon as the joint committee submits its report to the plenary. The House committees on justice and foreign affairs are conducting hearings on the bill. Cuenco chairs the foreign affairs committee while Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong heads the justice committee.

Rebels kill 9 soldiers, civilians

COMMUNIST REBELS AMbushed and killed nine soldiers and civilians in a remote farming town on Mindanao, an army spokesperson said on Monday.

Maj. Gamal Hayudini, spokesperson for the military's Southern Command, said the rebels killed four civilians and five unarmed soldiers on Sunday in Sapang Dalaga town in Misamis Occidental.

"Our soldiers were on their way to a market when they were waylaid by about 30 rebels," Hayudini told reporters, adding that four soldiers were wounded. He did not identify any of the victims.

The insurgency by the 8,000-member New People's Army has killed more than 40,000 people since the late 1960s.

"The NPA is in a position to launch ever more frequent and more annihilative tactical offensives against the government," the rebel group said in a statement sent to news organizations late Sunday.

In the last two weeks, it has claimed to have killed about 60 soldiers in 74 encounters in the Bicol region and in northern and eastern areas of Mindanao.

The military said the communist guerrillas had indiscriminately attacked civilians and noncombat troops in remote areas.

Hayudini said the ambush came a week after rebels attacked an army detachment in the same farming community. There were no casualties in that incident.

The NPA has stepped up attacks in the countryside in the last two weeks as part of overall efforts by the rebels to overthrow the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo, which is being buffeted by scandal.

Talks between the government and the NPA, brokered by Norway, stalled last year when Manila refused demands to help persuade Washington to remove the communists from a terrorism blacklist. *Reuters*

STOP
DEMOLITION
-KADAMAY
STOP
NORTH RAIL PROJECT
-KADA

NORTHRAIL PROTEST
People displaced by the NorthRail train project troop to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council office in Makati City to protest conditions at the relocation site. But HUDCC chair Vice President Noli de Castro said some of the protesters were selling the construction materials the government had given them. He said the relocation of railway dwellers would continue even if the project, which is being investigated by the Senate, does not push through. REM ZAMORA

GMA shows appreciation to supportive local execs

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo told local government executives she would not be stingy with their pork barrel funds, especially after they vowed to help Malacañang patch things up with the Senate.

The local government executives, through the Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines (Ulap), said they would host a breakfast dialogue with senators today at the Century Park Hotel in Manila.

Eastern Samar Gov. and Ulap spokesperson Ben Evardone said the group hoped the meeting would resolve the rift between the Palace and the Senate over Executive Order No. 464, which bars government, police and military officials from attending hearings in Congress without the President's permission.

Evardone said the rift could result in the nonpassage of the proposed P1-trillion national budget for 2006, which includes an increase in the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to local governments from P151 billion to P166.5 billion.

If Congress reenacts the 2005 budget, the LGUs would not get their increased IRA, he noted.

Ms Arroyo yesterday told local government executives that she was "dead serious in taking the power from the center of governance from Metro Manila to the countryside that fits it."

The President spoke during the 16th anniversary of the Local Government Code and the launching of the Kilos Asenso Movement at Manila Hotel.

"And that is why I am not stingy with your IRA," Ms Arroyo said, adding that she would continue to release the IRA funds owed by past administrations, including "unprogrammed funds that should have been part of your 2000 and 2001 IRA."

She thanked the local government executives for "keeping the faith with our common vision," and this is why "we have put our national counterpart in the national budget for 2006," referring to the IRA.

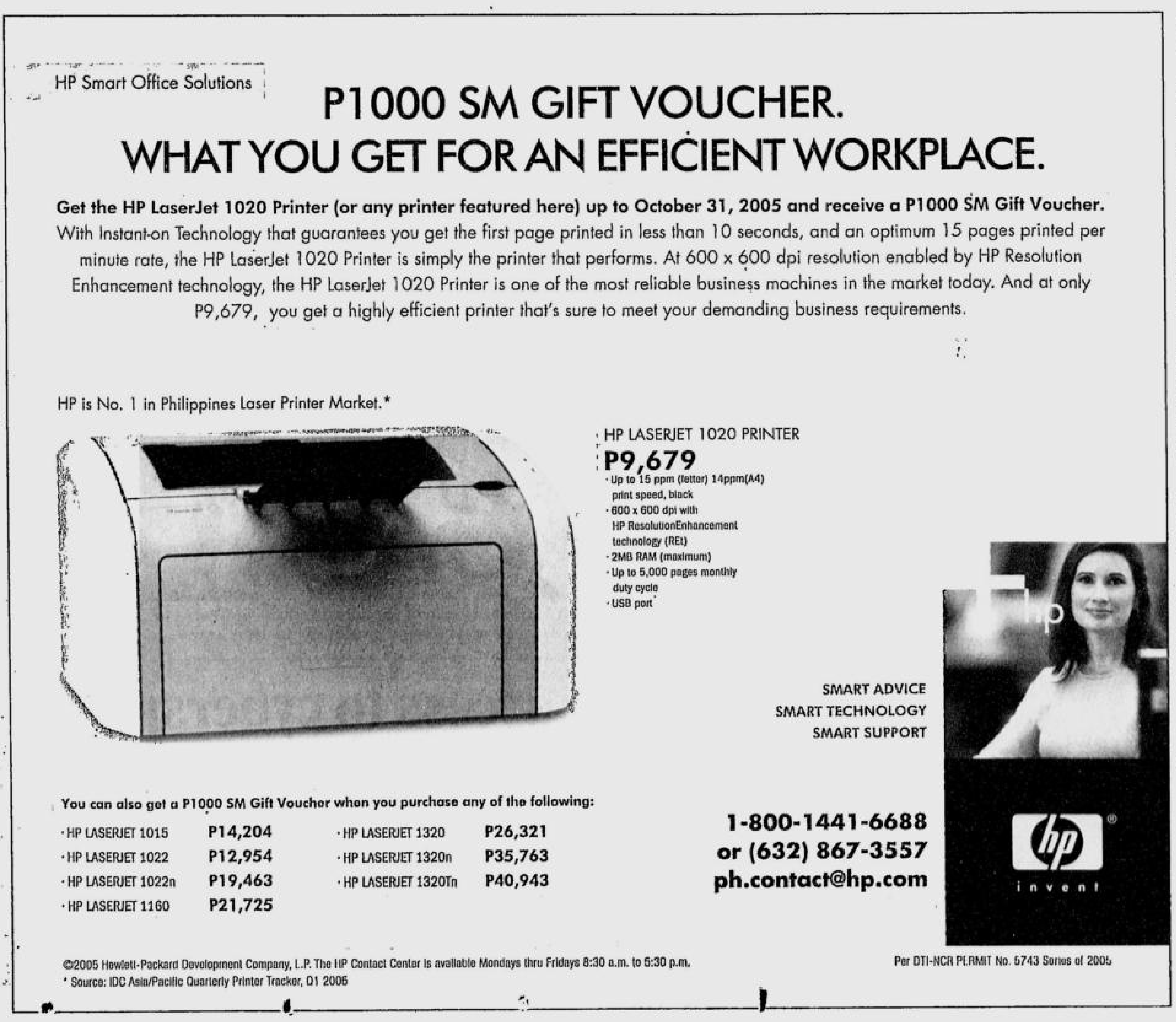
Ms Arroyo also thanked the LGUs for supporting the Palace over its issuance of EO 464. "This is constitutional and it promotes the healthy separation and equality of powers among branches in government," she said.

Evardone said that after meeting with the senators the local executives would meet with congressional leaders and members of the Consultative Commission to help settle the Charter change issue.

"We would like to serve as the bridge, as the link between and among Malacañang, the Senate and Congress," Evardone told reporters.

He said his colleagues intended to make an "earnest" appeal to the senators to sit down with Malacañang and thresh out "all the kinks" regarding EO 464.

While the LGUs do not have an official stand on EO 464, Evardone said that, individually, the consensus was that the order was "within the bounds of law."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Per DTI-NCR PERMIT No. 5743 Series of 2005

Ombudsman investigating Nani Perez

By Nelson F. Flores

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN HAS confirmed it is investigating former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez for possible violation of the antigraft law.

Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio told the INQUIRER in an interview late last week the probe had been going on for several months but he could not give any details since the investigation had to be "discreet in nature because there is still not enough evidence to go by (for) a formal investigation."

Gervacio explained the Office of the Ombudsman had to be thorough in its investigations to ensure success, and that was the reason some cases, such as Perez's, could only be "discreetly investigated."

Perez, justice secretary from 1991 to 1993, denied he was under investigation by the Ombudsman when he met with reporters briefly after attending former President Joseph Estrada's plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan.

"*Intriga lang yan* (That is just intrigue)," Perez said.

However, sources at the Office of the Ombudsman said the investigation was on allegations made by former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez in a privilege speech in December 2002 in which he accused Perez of demanding $2 million in exchange for not naming him as a coaccused in the plunder case against Estrada.

Gervacio's revelations came amid speculation on the reasons behind the recent resignation of Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo.

Malacañang had reportedly pressured Marcelo into resigning after allegedly failing to prevent the investigation of political personalities close to the administration. Marcelo denied the reports, saying poor health was the reason behind his resignation.

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6TH ASIA PACIFIC MINING CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City, Philippines October 11-13, 2005

EXHIBITS

Borderless Mining in Asia Pacific: Targeting Global Opportunities

International mining leaders will gather in Makati City today and for the next two days to examine how the region can hasten mineral development to meet the demands of the growing economy.

This meeting is the 6th Asia Pacific Mining Conference and Exhibition at the Makati Shangri-La. This comes at the heels of the Mining Investment Conference held last February this year also in Makati and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals (ASOMM) held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in July 2004.

The ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations (AFMA) formally submitted the Minerals Cooperation Plan to the ASOMM, paving the way for greater private sector involvement in the mining industry in the ASEAN.

Among the highlights of this Plan is the development of regional policies on mineral resource utilization and intra-ASEAN trade, enhanced private sector investments in the region, cooperation in institutional and human resource capacity building, research and development (R&D) and technology transfer, and ensuring safety and protecting the environment in mining projects.

The AFMA, headed by Benjamin Philip Romualdez who is also the president of the Philippine Chamber of Mines, is hosting this year's conference and exhibition. Mr. Romualdez hopes to rally the private sector in the Asia Pacific region in taking advantage of the global investment and market opportunities thereby helping sustain the growth of the various countries' economies.

PROGRAMME

Mon., Oct. 10, 2005
0900 - 1200
Strategic Planning for AFMA's Work Programme on Minerals Cooperation in the ASEAN Region
1200 - 1430
Luncheon Press Conference with Select Panel of Resource Persons
1400 - 1800
Pre-Conference Registration Conference Secretariat Office

Tues., Oct. 11, 2005
0730 - 1830
Registration Conference Secretariat Office
0830 - 1000
Inaugural Session
0830 - 0900
Formal Opening of Mining Exhibition
• Ceremonial cutting of the ribbon
Hon. Michael T. Defensor - Sec., DENR, Phils.
• Viewing of the Exhibition
0900 - 0930
Formal Opening of Mining Conference
• **Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez**, Pres., ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations Pres., Chamber of Mines of the Phils.
• **Amb. Della Domingo Albert**, Presidential Adviser on Minerals Development, Phils.,
• **Plenary Address - Sec. Michael T. Defensor**
Session: **"FACING THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE"**
0930 - 1000
The ASEAN Perspective on the region's mining industry - **H.E. Ong Keng Yong**, ASEAN Secretary General
1000 - 1030
Value Based Management for the Global Mining Industry,
Mr. Philip Sewell, CRU Group
1030 - 1100
Morning Coffee/Tea
1100 - 1130
ASEAN Integration from the Perspective of Business and Industry - Amb. Donald Dee, Incoming Chairman, ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry
1130 - 1200
Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative: Strengthening Accountability and Good Governance, **Ms. Ceri Edmonds**, EITI Beijing
1200 - 1330
Luncheon
Session: **"SHOWCASING ASEAN MINING PROJECTS"**
Panel Discussion
1330 - 1430
The Indonesian Mining Industry: Facing Up to the Challenges
Mr. Prio Sumarno - Executive Director, Indonesian Mining Asso.
• Mr. A. C. Purba., Vice Pres. P. T. Tambang Batubara Bukit Asam, S. Sumatra
• Mr. D. Aditya, Pres. Dir., PT Aneka Tambang
• Mr. Tobrani Alwi, President Director, Pt Timah
1430 - 1500
Mining Activities and Investments in Lao PDR: Gearing for Take Off
• **Mr. Thongphath Inthavong**, General Director, Department of Geology and Mining
• **Dr. Sompahavan Inthavong**, Chairman, Lao Mining Association
1500 - 1530
Revitalizing Malaysia's Minerals Resource Industry, **Mr. Muhamad Nor Muhamad**, Exec. Dir., Malaysian Chamber of Mines
• **Dato' Dr. Mohd Ajib Awar**, President, Malaysian Chamber of Mines Group Chief Executive, Malaysia Smelting Corporation
• **Dato' Mohd Anuar Sidek**, President/Director, P. T. Koba Tin Malaysia's Tin Mining Operation
1530 - 1545
Afternoon Coffee/Tea
1545 - 1645
Investing in Mining Opportunities in the Philippines.
Mr. Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez - Pres., Chamber of Mines of the Phils.
• Siana Gold Project Mr. Greg Edwards, Managing Director, Red 5 Limited
• Mindoro Project Mr. Tony Climie, President and CEO, MRL Gold Phils., Inc.
• Apex Mines Project Jan Vestrum, Pres. and CEO, Crew Development Corporation
1645 - 1715
Revitalizing the Minerals Industry of Thailand, **Mr. Chadap Padmasuta** Chairman of the Executive Board, Mining Industry Council of Thailand
1715 - 1745
Adjournment of Day's Session
1830 - 2100
Welcome Reception for all Delegates, (Residence of Mr. Romualdez, No. 1 Palm Avenue, Forbes Park, Makati City)

Wed., Oct. 12, 2005
Session: **"SHARING FROM THE MAJORS"**
0900 - 0920
The South African Mining Experience
Mr. Jacinto Rocha, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Mines and Energy of South Africa
0920 - 0940
Networking in the Global Mining Market Place, **Mr. Peter Dimmel**, President, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada
0940 - 1000
Keeping the Mining Industry of Australia Ahead - **Mitchell H. Hooke**, Chief Executive, Minerals Council of Australia
1000 - 1020
Morning Coffee/Tea
1020 - 1040
The U. S. Trade and Development Agency Mining Sector Evaluation Program
Mr. Gerald V. Jergensen, Consultant, US Trade and Development Agency
1040 - 1100
Meeting the Challenges in Developing Indonesia's Mining Industry - **Dr. Simon. Sembiring**, Director General of Geology and Mineral Resources
1100 - 1120
Japan Oil, Gas, Minerals and Energy Corporation (JOGMEC) Presentation
Satoshi Kondo, Counsellor, Metals Strategy and Exploration Unit, JOGMEC Headquarters
1120 - 1140
Coral Bay Nickel Project
Takanori Fujimura, President, Coral Bay Nickel Corporation
Adjournment of Morning Session
1140 - 1320
Luncheon (Guest Speaker: Justice Artemio V. Panganiban) Supreme Court
1320 - 1340
Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility in Mining Investment Projects – What IFC Can Do
Mr. Vipul Bhagat, Country Manager International Finance Corporation
1340 - 1400
Getting Started, Funded and Going – Key Philippine Laws
Atty. Leo Dominguez, Quisumbing Torres Law Offices
1400 - 1420
Outlook of the Mining Industry in the Philippines and in Asia Pacific Region: Some Suggestions,
Mr. Peter Wallace, Wallace Business Forum
1420 - 1440
Benguet Corporation's 100 Years of Mining Experience:
Moving on With Several Projects
Mr. Marcelo Bolano, Sr. Vice President, Benguet Corporation
1440 - 1500
Afternoon Coffee/Tea
Session: **"SHOWCASING ASEAN EXPERIENCE"**
1500 - 1520
Vietnam's Strategy on Mining Invesiments and Industry Dev't.
Mr. Trinh Xuan Ben, Vice Director, Department of Geology and Mineral Resources
1520 - 1540
Ban Phuc Nickel Project in Vietnam, **David F. Woodhouse**, Chief Executive Officer, Asian Mineral Resources, Ltd.
1540 - 1600
The National Mining Industry Policy of Thailand - **Mr. Wichian Plodpradista**, Director, Office of Primary Industries and Mines
1600 - 1620
Kingsgate Project in Thailand
Mr. Ron James, General Manager, Akara Mining Co. Ltd.
Adjournment of Day's Session
1815
Depart for Evening function
1900 - 2200
ASIA PACIFIC NIGHT - Dinner Reception for all Delegates Coconut Palace, Cultural Center Complex, Manila

Thursday, October 13, 2005
Session: **"SHOWCASING ASEAN EXPERIENCE"**
0900 - 0915
The Resurgence of the Phil. Mining Industry: Keeping the Momentum, **Hon. Michael T. Defensor** - Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources
0915 - 0930
Finishing the Feasibility Study of World Class Tampakan Copper Project
Tony Robbins, Managing Director, Indophil Resources (Phils) Inc.
0930 - 0945
Financing the Didipio Copper Project,
James Askew, Chairman, Climax Mining Ltd.
0945 - 1000
Constructing and Operating the Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project - **Andrew Mcilwain**, Chief Executive, Lafayette Mining Ltd
1000 - 1020
Open Forum
1030
Toledo Copper Mine Rehabilation 2006
Mr. Rodrigo C. Cal, Asst. UP & Pres and Resident Manager of Atlas Consolidated Mining & Dev. Corp and Carmen Copper Corp.
1020 – 1040
Morning Coffee/Tea
1040 – 1100
Inco's Exploration and Operations in the Asia Pacific Region - **Mr. Nick Sheard**, Vice President Exploration, Inco Mining Corp.
1100 – 1120
Promoting Foreign Investments in Mining in Myanmar: Policy Perspective - **H.E. U. Thaung Tun**, Ambassador of Myanmar
1120 – 1140
Reoperating Toledo Copper Corporation's Copper Deposits
In Toledo, Cebu. **Mr. Martin Buckingham**, President, Toledo Mining Corp.
1140 – 1200
Open Forum
1200 - 1330
Luncheon (Guest Speaker: Hon. Rep. Jose D. Venecia, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines)
1330 - 1350
The Malaysian Strategy on Mining Investments and Industry Development
H.E. Dato' Sazmi Miah, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
13.50 - 14.10
The Rehabilitation of Ex-Mining Lands: Malaysia's Experience. **Mr. Mohamad Noor Ayoob**, Director, Minerals and Geo-sciences Department of Malaysia
1410 – 1430
Open Forum
1430 - 1450
Lao, PDR's Mining Development Strategies
H.E. Mr. Nam Vignaketh, Vice Minister of Industry and Handicraft
1450 – 1510
Oxiana's Success Story in Lao, PDR
Mr. Richard Hedstron, Corporate Affairs Manager, Oxiana Ltd.
1510 - 1530
The Cambodian Strategy on Mining Investments and Industry Development
H.E. Mr. Chea Sieng Hong, Secretary of State for Industry, Mines and Energy
1530 – 1550
Phnom Penh Chamber of Commerce Presentation, **Mr. Oknha Kith Meng**, Chairman and CEO, Royal Group of Companies
1550 – 1610
Counting the Blessings on its 50th Year and Moving On - **Mr. Jose Ernesto C. Villaluna**, President & COO, Philex Mining Corp.
1610 – 1630
Open Forum
1630 – 1650
"Building Bridges among ASEAN and Global Mining Companies"
Closing Remarks, **Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez**, President, ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations Adjournment of Day's Session
1745
Delegates depart for Malacanan Palace
1830 - 2030
Farewell Cocktail and Dinner Reception at Malacanan • Keynote Address by **H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo**, Pres. of the Phils

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After Luisita, more tillers want stock deals cancelled

By Blanche S. Rivera

BACOLOD CITY—The government's decision on the Hacienda Luisita case has sparked similar moves to cancel other stock distribution options which have failed to improve the lives of farmers.

Two farmers' groups that adopted the stock distribution option in Negros Occidental are now seeking the revocation of their agreements which have been in effect for the past 13 years.

Farmworker beneficiaries of the 218-hectare Hacienda Palma, one of six landholdings of the family of lawyer Arsenio Al. Acuña, have asked the Department of Agrarian Reform to help them draft a petition to cancel their SDO.

Farmer-leader Rene Marcelino said the 113 farmer beneficiaries at the sugar estate were still languishing in poverty and had not benefited from the SDO.

"We will die of hunger here if we don't get anything more than the P500 dividend," Marcelino, president of the National Congress of Unions in the Sugar Industry of the Philippines, said in an interview Saturday.

Around 20 beneficiaries and their spouses were present during a meeting with the media, provincial agrarian reform officer Manuel Velasco and Ilog's municipal agrarian reform officer Federito Leysa.

"We have heard what happened to Hacienda Luisita. How can we do the same thing? We want the land. We have not benefited from this SDO. Maybe if we have the land we can fare better," another farmer said.

Majority of the farmer beneficiaries at SVJ Farms in Talisay City have also filed a similar petition before the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council.

The SVJ farmers claimed violations of the SDO agreement such as the absence of a rice subsidy and problematic arrangements for housing, Velasco said.

Velasco said he endorsed the results of the referendum of SVJ Farms farmer beneficiaries to the PARC, which showed that 63 farmers wanted to cancel the SDO and get their share of SVJ's 170 hectares.

Nine of the 13 stock transfer schemes approved by the PARC are in Negros, home to the country's sugar barons who have contested the coverage of their lands under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The stock plan of the Arsenio Acuña Agricultural Corp. and SVJ Farms were both approved by the PARC in 1992 or four years after RA 6657, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, was enacted.

Comelec: Namfrel's Bill Luz a Canadian

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS has ruled that businessman Guillermo "Bill" Luz is a Canadian citizen and, therefore, is unqualified to vote or participate in the country's electoral processes.

In a unanimous en banc resolution dated Oct. 7, the five Comelec commissioners led by chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said Luz—although he was born in the Philippines—emigrated to Canada when he was a minor and became a naturalized Canadian citizen.

"There is no showing whatsoever that he was able to reacquire his Philippine citizenship," the Comelec said in its 9-page resolution.

Luz, when asked for his reaction, sent the INQUIRER a text message saying he had yet to receive a copy of the Comelec decision.

The commissioners cited Bureau of Immigration records that showed that when Luz returned to the Philippines in August 1978 at the age of 18, he stated in his application for an alien certificate of registration that he was a Canadian citizen.

Luz is the executive director of both the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), the polls watchdog, and the Makati Business Club. The question of his citizenship was first aired by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. in a complaint filed before the Comelec.

The Comelec debunked Luz's defense that he was a Filipino by virtue of his having been born in the Philippines on Jan. 2, 1960, to Filipino parents. The businessman said that upon reaching legal age, he exercised the "concomitant rights and responsibilities of Filipino citizens."

The commissioners said Luz should have followed the procedure laid down in Commonwealth Act No. 625 which provides that a minor choosing Filipino citizenship upon reaching legal age must make a written statement of his intention and take an oath of allegiance to the country.

The affidavit should also be registered with the nearest civil registry, they said.

Luz was issued a Philippine visa in Vancouver, Canada, on Aug. 8, 1978. He was admitted to the Philippines as a permanent resident on Sept. 7 the same year.

The commissioners ordered the Comelec's law department to file criminal charges against Luz for violation of Section 81 in relation to Section 262 of the Omnibus Election Code, which prohibits the participation of foreigners in the election process.

Correction

IN THE OCT. 9 issue, the banner story of the SundayBiz section on Page B1—"P200 built Quezon's biggest drugstore chain"—misstated the name of the general manager of Carlos SuperDrug in Quezon province. The general manager of the drugstore chain is Eduardo Carlos—not his sister, Cory Carlos-Balquiedra, who is the operations manager.

Tuesday, October 11, 2005
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 1:16-25
Gospel: Luke 11:37-41

As Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to have a meal with him. So he went and sat at table. The Pharisee then wondered why Jesus did not first wash his hands before dinner. But the Lord said to him, "So then, you Pharisees, you clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside yourselves you are full of greed and evil. Fools! He who made the outside, also made the inside. But according to you, by the mere giving of alms everything is made clean."

Commentary

Jesus preaches hard truth and is invited in for a meal. Immediately he is thought badly of because he does not adhere to practicing the outside rituals of washing hands in an elaborate show of cleanliness. But Jesus knows them well and condemns them for being full of greed and evil but publicly going through the formalities of being pure. Jesus speaks always of his God, Father who makes both the outside and the inside of all creation and knows everyone inwardly no matter what we're doing outwardly. Jesus is clear that the outward show of giving alms doesn't immediately clear one of all sin, especially sin that is right at the heart of our lives, thoughts and behaviors. Ordinary time is for looking into our hearts and lives, changing and seeking to live with integrity and wholehearted obedience to the core of our religion. And we follow the Truth. It must be what scours us purely within so that our actions reflect our hearts.

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Elite Australian troops join hunt for JI terrorists in RP

From page A1

cluding four Australians, attention is focusing on terrorist cells operating in southern Philippines.

Australian agents and Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment troops were cooperating with Filipino soldiers in the hunt for senior terrorist figures in the Philippines, said News Ltd. papers, citing an unnamed former agent with the Australian Security Intelligence Organization.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer on Sunday would neither confirm nor deny the presence of SAS, the shadowy regiment that has spearheaded Australia's combat roles in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I'm not going to go into all the details of who they are, but there are Australian personnel in the Philippines who are providing the Philippine police and armed forces with assistance," Downer told Melbourne Radio 3AW.

"We do have some people there from ... various arms of government helping the Filipinos, and have had for quite some time," he added.

But the Armed Forces of the Philippines strongly denied news reports that elite Australian troops had joined Filipino soldiers in actual pursuit operations against JI terrorists.

"That's not true. Our ground commanders would never allow that," the AFP spokesperson, Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, said.

The Constitution prohibits the participation of foreign troops in military operations, unless there is a treaty or agreement for it, according to Pascual.

Pascual said Australian security forces were involved only in crime scene investigation of bomb attack so that data on the devices and methods used by the terrorists could be compared.

He said the manhunt operations were solely undertaken by Filipino soldiers.

Bomb makers

Authorities have so far failed to capture fugitive bomb makers Noordin Mohamed Top and Azahari bin Husin, believed to be the masterminds behind the Bali attacks.

News Ltd. reports said Australian agents also were targeting a bomb maker by the name of Dulmatin, who is thought to be in the Philippines.

Last week, the spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said a certain JI militant Dulmatin, believed to be the mastermind of the 2002 Bali explosion, and another JI member, Umar Patek, had been hiding in Mindanao with the bandit group Abu Sayyaf.

The MILF is fighting for an Islamic state in Mindanao.

Australian media have reported that Australia has been fighting a covert operation in the Philippines for at least a year, helping combat an alarming rise in Islamic fundamentalism and terror.

Philippine officials confirmed in June that a handful of Australian police had been providing forensic expertise, training and intelligence to Filipino counterparts, but said their operations were not covert.

The Australian agents need not go to the jungles to look for JI terrorists if a report from the Philippine military proves correct.

JI terrorist cell in Manila

The Philippine military said two terrorist cells of JI and the Abu Sayyaf Group were in Metro Manila planning new bomb attacks.

"I do not want to sound alarmist, but the ASG and JI cells here in Metro Manila are capable of conducting bombings as we have experienced before," Pascual said, quoting a report from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

Islamic extremists staged simultaneous bombings in the cities of Makati, Davao and General Santos on Feb. 14, killing seven people and injuring at least 114 others.

"We have seen in the Valentine's Day bombing that they are sophisticated. They used a cell phone as the triggering device," Pascual said.

The JI members were most likely Indonesians, according to Pascual.

A senior military intelligence official, who asked not to be identified, said at least 10 JI militants were believed to be in Metro Manila.

"It's very hard to detect (them) because they operate in cells of four. So we check all information gathered," the official said. *Reports from AP and Dona Pazzibugan*

Joker to argue Senate case vs Gonzales...

From page A1

high court seeking the dismissal of the Gonzales petition, insisting that his detention was legal.

Cited in contempt

Committee members cited Gonzales in contempt and ordered him detained after he evaded questions during a committee hearing on Sept. 21. Gonzales' blood pressure shot up as a result. The 58-year-old Gonzales had been confined for hypertension at the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City since then.

Ms Arroyo has demanded the release of Gonzales. After repeated Senate rejections, she issued Executive Order No. 464 that bans government and military officials from appearing before congressional hearings, triggering fears of a constitutional crisis.

Palace officials said the hearings were not in aid of legislation but were part of a continuing attempt to unseat the President.

"I've not appeared before the Supreme Court for the past 20 years. I'm a bit rusty now," Arroyo told reporters.

As a petitioner, Arroyo had appeared in the Supreme Court to argue cases against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Today, the 78-year-old senator is a respondent.

In his comment, Arroyo offered a transcript of the hearing as evidence.

"It would readily show the evasiveness of petitioner's answers; it went round and round for three hours and in the end petitioner did not answer any of the crucial questions asked by the senators individually," he said.

Besides, Arroyo pointed out, Gonzales did not invoke executive privilege during the hearing, but instead asked for some days to "consult with his donors," or the individuals who donated money to pay for Venable's services.

"Since he has been receiving a string of visitors at the Philippine Heart Center with practically no restrictions whatsoever, he had all the time to consult with his donors and respondent committee was ready to convene anytime to hear anew his testimony if he indicated his willingness to talk," Arroyo said.

Executive privilege is the practice of the President or presidential assistants of refusing to answer questions posed in congressional hearings by claiming separation of powers.

Arroyo argued that the hearing could not be covered by executive privilege since, as Gonzales had testified, Ms Arroyo herself was not privy to the agreement.

"On the other hand, the Senate has to perform its duty that no outside pressure, influence or funding is operating in the very measure pending before it," Arroyo said.

Cavalier treatment

"Executive privilege does not apply in the premises. That great of writ of liberty, habeas corpus, cannot be availed of."

The committee was surprised by Gonzales' testimony that he merely assumed he had the power to sign the contract, that he did not have a written authority to negotiate the agreement, and the solicitation for funding for Charter change was his responsibility alone, among other things, according to Arroyo.

What the committee members found disturbing was Gonzales' "cavalier treatment" of the contract, he added.

"It is between the government of the Philippines and Venable LLP, negotiated, executed and signed in Makati, yet it is on Venable stationery. It has not been given the dignity that befits a Philippine government contract," he said.

Arroyo stressed that the Senate had sought an inquiry into the contract because it found the move to seek US grants and funds "to support the drive for Charter change" objectionable.

"It is unlawful to solicit funds from foreign governments and foreign sources for election purposes ... it is even more repugnant when it comes to changing the fundamental law," he said.

Thanks to Viagra, eight animal species are saved

From page A1

dysfunction, according to new research.

A survey of 256 men who used traditional Chinese medicine to cure their ailments found that when it came to sexual problems, more men were switching to pharmaceutical products, such as Viagra.

"Those using traditional Chinese medicine are not switching for arthritis, indigestion or gout," pyschologist Bill von Hippel told Agence France Presse on Monday.

"Erectile dysfunction is the one case where all that reverses," he added.

Von Hippel, who is from Sydney's University of New South Wales, conducted the survey with his biologist brother Frank von Hippel, who is from the University of Alaska. They were granted funding by the makers of Viagra, Pfizer.

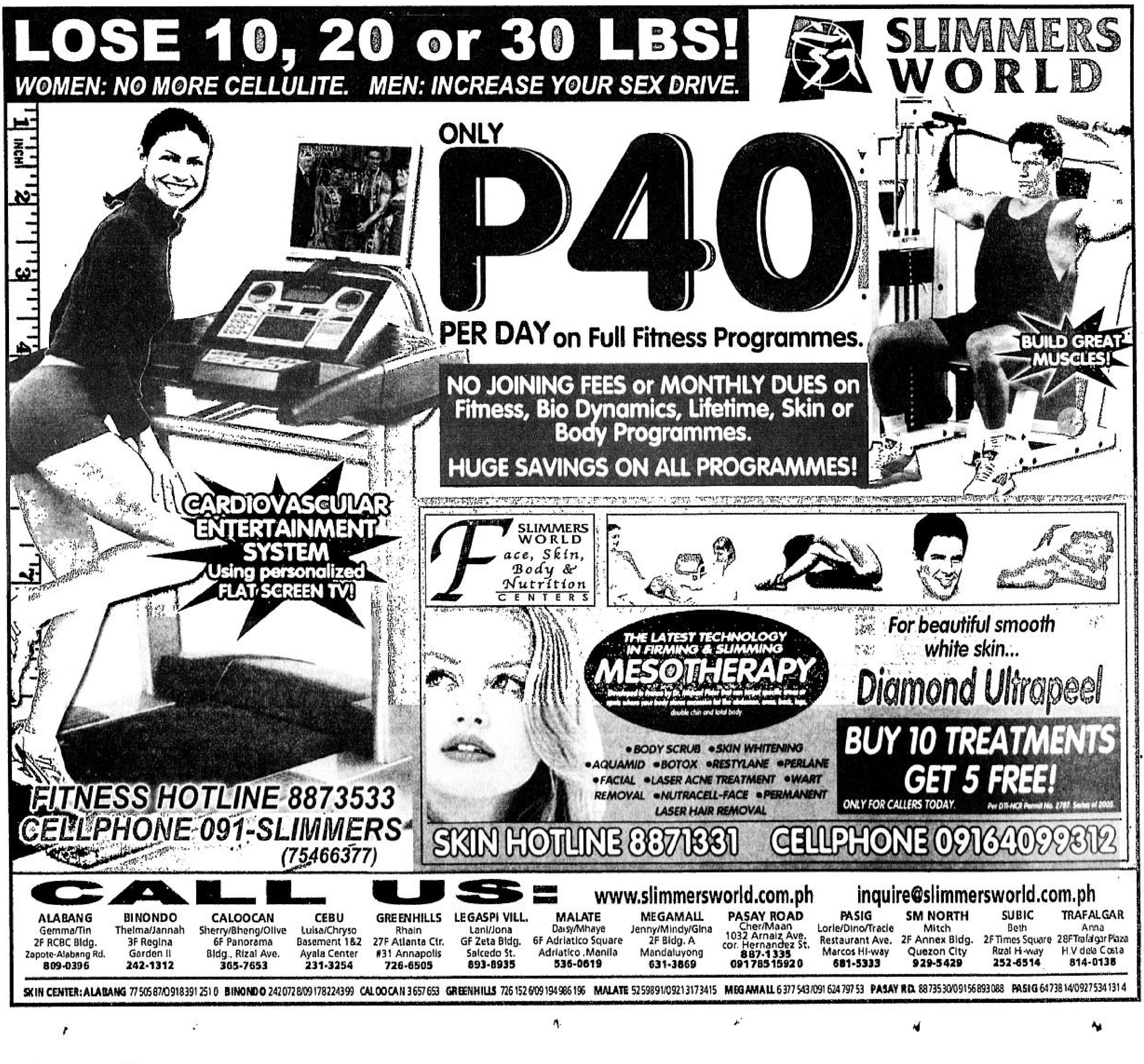
The findings of the Von Hippel brothers are published in the latest edition of the British journal Environmental Conservation.

Their interviews with men aged between 50 and 76, conducted at traditional Chinese medicine clinics in Hong Kong, found that eight animal species were most likely to be saved by Viagra-type drugs.

The lucky animals include seals, whose penises are ground into a powder and used in a tonic, and green sea turtles which are made into a soup.

Also saved were sea lions, pipe fish, sea cucumbers, seahorses and some species of Asian deer and geckos.

But Von Hippel, who began his research into this area in 1998, said Viagra would still not save tigers and rhinos because these were used to produce so many other cures. AFP



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US considered military strikes in Syria

NEW YORK—THE UNITED STATES RECENTLY DEbated launching military strikes inside Syria against camps used by insurgents operating in neighboring Iraq, a US magazine reported on Sunday.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice successfully opposed the idea at a meeting of senior American officials held on Oct. 1, Newsweek reported, citing unnamed US government sources.

Rice reportedly argued that diplomatic isolation was a more effective approach, with a UN report pending that may blame Syria for the assassination of former Lebanese Premier Rafiq Hariri.

The United States has accused Damascus of allowing insurgents to move arms and fighters across the Syrian border into Iraq and of destabilizing the region.

US troops in Iraq have been waging an offensive in recent weeks against insurgents in western towns near the Syrian border.

The US ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, said last month that "our patience is running out" with Syria.

The same article also reported that Syria had ended all security and intelligence cooperation with the United States several months ago after growing frustrated with persistent public criticism from Washington.

Syria's ambassador to the United States, Imad Moustapha, told Newsweek that his government continued to detain Islamic extremists and remained willing to resume cooperation if the public bashing stopped.

"We are willing to reengage the moment you want but one condition," the magazine quotes Moustapha as saying.

"You have to acknowledge that we are helping."

Moustapha also confirmed an account from a US intelligence official that Damascus had been angered when Washington exposed one of its operatives.

While criticizing Syria in public statements, the United States had privately praised Damascus for handing over the half brother of Saddam Hussein, Sabawi Ibrahim al-Hassan, earlier in the year, the magazine reported.

Moustapha said Syria could do more to assist the United States if intelligence was shared as in the past.

The magazine reported that some US intelligence officials believed Washington now was losing out on vital information. Syrian cooperation in the last few years allegedly had helped avert two possible attacks against US targets, including a Navy base in Bahrain. *AFP*

Mudslide cover looms as tomb for hundreds of trapped Guatemalans

GUATEMALA CITY—HUNDREDS of people remained trapped Sunday inside what may become a massive mud tomb in a scenic lake region of Guatemala, four days after Tropical Storm Stan unleashed a devastating mudslide.

Up to 1,400 people were feared to have been buried alive since the early hours of Wednesday, when an avalanche of rock and mud tumbled from the slopes of San Lucas volcano onto the towns of Panajab and Tzanchaj, 180 km (110 miles) west of Guatemala City.

Only 71 bodies have been recovered so far, mostly children. The corpses were placed in makeshift wooden coffins and quickly interred.

The death toll in Central America and Mexico rose to at least 629 Sunday as 10 more bodies were recovered in Guatemala, bringing the toll in the hard-hit country to 519. The storm also killed 71 people in El Salvador, 28 in Mexico and 11 in Nicaragua, authorities in those countries said.

In this usually touristic region, rescuers—armed only with shovels, picks and hoes to dig out the dead—began showing signs of fatigue, as there was little food and drinking water in the devastated Lake Atitlan area.

Rain fell across the country Sunday, complicating the recovery efforts as helicopters were unable to fly over devastated areas, officials said.

Stan slammed ashore as a hurricane in the Mexican state of Veracruz early Tuesday but began pounding northern Central America with rain on Oct. 1, with Guatemala taking the hardest blow.

Guatemalan President Oscar Berger has made an impassioned plea for international assistance, estimating agricultural losses at 135 million dollars.

But he did not hold out much hope for his compatriots.

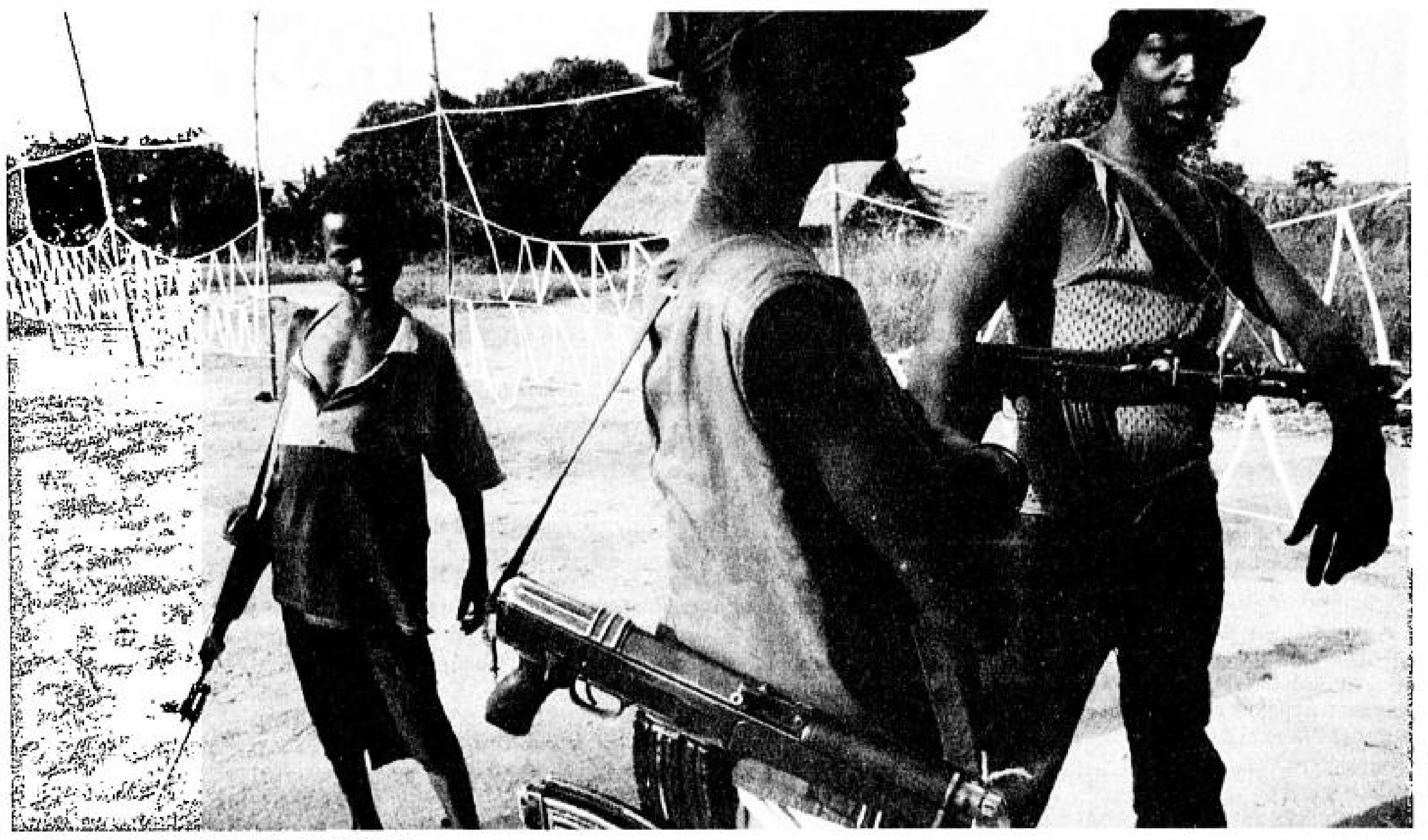
"I believe we are in for more unpleasant surprises," Berger said. "Many people remain missing. There have been many mudslides, and many communities remain cut off." The United States, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Cuba, Canada and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration have pledged help.

Norway's Ambassador Rolf Berg requested a detailed needs assessment to determine how best to help the estimated 1.8 million Guatemalans affected by the storm.

Mexico, meanwhile, launched a vaccination drive amid an outbreak of dengue fever in the storm zone. A quarantine was slapped on the town of Huejutla, in central Hidalgo state, where 180 fell ill.

At least 28 Mexicans were killed by the storm and two million were affected, officials said.

"We will overcome this tragedy. Please be calm. I promise we will rebuild," President Vicente Fox told panicked residents of Huixtlan, just north of the Guatemalan border, where 5,000 people sought refuge in shelters. *AFP*



PRIZE-WINNING WAR PHOTO

This picture taken by French photographer Roger Lemoyne from Magazine/Redux Pictures/Alexia Foundation was awarded Oct. 8, the 12th annual Bayeux "People's Choice" prize for war reporting. The picture taken in August 2003, as part of a report entitled "Gold, arms and microbes: The war in the east of Congo," shows a 12-year-old boy at left, with an adolescent and young man from the same Lendu militia unit, all bearing arms, on the road between Bunia and Marabou where killings occurred regularly of the Lendu militia in the Bunia area. AFP

Global warming drying out China's mighty Yellow River

BEIJING—GLOBAL WARMING IS DRYING out the source of the Yellow River, threatening water supplies to 120 million people, an environmental group said Monday.

In a study commissioned by Greenpeace, scientists said global warming was melting glaciers which in turn was breaking up and drying out the land, leaving lakes and rivers without water.

"Climate change is wreaking havoc at the birthplace of China's mother river," a Greenpeace researcher said in China after releasing the study.

The Tibetan Plateau, known as the "roof of the world" and the source of both the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers—China's two longest—has seen an overall temperature rise of nearly one degree Celsius during the past 30 years, the study by scientists said.

"The higher the altitude, the faster the temperature rises," it said.

The rise in temperature has resulted in the glacier area in the region decreasing in size by 17 percent in 2000 compared with its size in 1966.

In the last 30 years, the shrinkage rate of the glacier area is 10 times faster than that of the previous 300 years, the report said.

"From here it is a domino effect that harms the flora, fauna, landscape and people of the Yellow River source region—and ultimately the river itself," said Professor Liu Shiyin, the leading author of the report.

Over 120 million people rely on the river's water for domestic as well as agricultural and industrial uses. *AFP*

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Merkel to be named German leader

MERKEL AP

BERLIN—CONSERVATIVE LEADER ANGELA Merkel will become Germany's first woman chancellor under a deal with Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD) to break a post-election deadlock, sources said on Monday.

Three weeks after voters gave Merkel's conservatives an unexpectedly narrow win over Schroeder's SPD in a federal election, senior sources from both parties said an agreement had been struck that should pave the way for a power-sharing cabinet.

According to a senior SPD source, the SPD is poised to get the foreign, finance, justice and labor ministries in a new coalition government led by the 51-year old Merkel, a pastor's daughter who grew up in the former communist east.

That would leave Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) and its Christian Social Union (CSU) allies with the economy, interior and defence portfolios.

The deal was expected to be ratified by Schroeder, SPD leader Franz Muentefering, Merkel and CSU leader Edmund Stoiber, at a meeting scheduled for 11 a.m. on Monday.

The tough negotiations between the main forces on the German center-left and center-right come after the election gave neither the conservatives nor the SPD enough votes to rule with their preferred partners.

Schroeder's SPD had refused to relinquish its hold on the chancellery until now.

By securing many of the most important ministries in return for sacrificing Schroeder, 61, the SPD is expected to force concessions from Merkel on economic policy, resulting in a dilution of the reform agenda she pushed during the election campaign.

The deal is expected to pave the way for detailed coalition talks and the formation of Germany's second "grand coalition" between its top two parties since World War II. Those talks are likely to extend into November.

Germany has been in political limbo since the Sept. 18 election and economists have warned that further delay could harm the struggling economy.

Financial markets are watching closely to see how much Merkel will have to dilute her reform plans to appease the SPD,

If Merkel makes too many concessions it could delay or scupper changes that economists say Germany urgently needs to boost its growth rate.

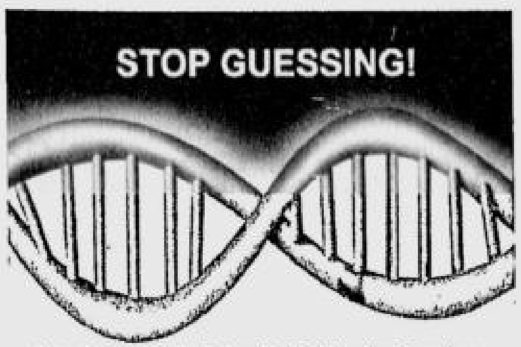
German gross domestic product is expected to grow just 1 percent this year, the weakest rate in the 25-nation European Union. Unemployment hit a postwar high in February of over 5.2 million people, 12.6 percent of the workforce.

"Under the grand coalition agreement, some compromise will obviously have to take place for things to work," said Ian Stannard, senior foreign exchange strategist at BNP Paribas.

"The reform mandate is probably not going to be as strong as it would have been under an outright victory by Merkel. But the fact that they have a coalition led by Merkel—the market hope is that reform will to some extent be kept alive."

In some areas, including reform of Germany's complex federal structure and resolving budget problems, the two parties are expected to work well together. In other areas, such as labour market reform, they could struggle to push through substantial measures.

Germany's Dax index of leading shares was trading 0.8 percent higher after the reports that Merkel was to become chancellor. The euro currency and bonds were steady. *Reuters*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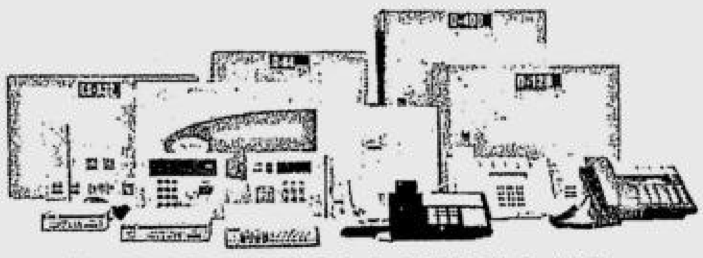

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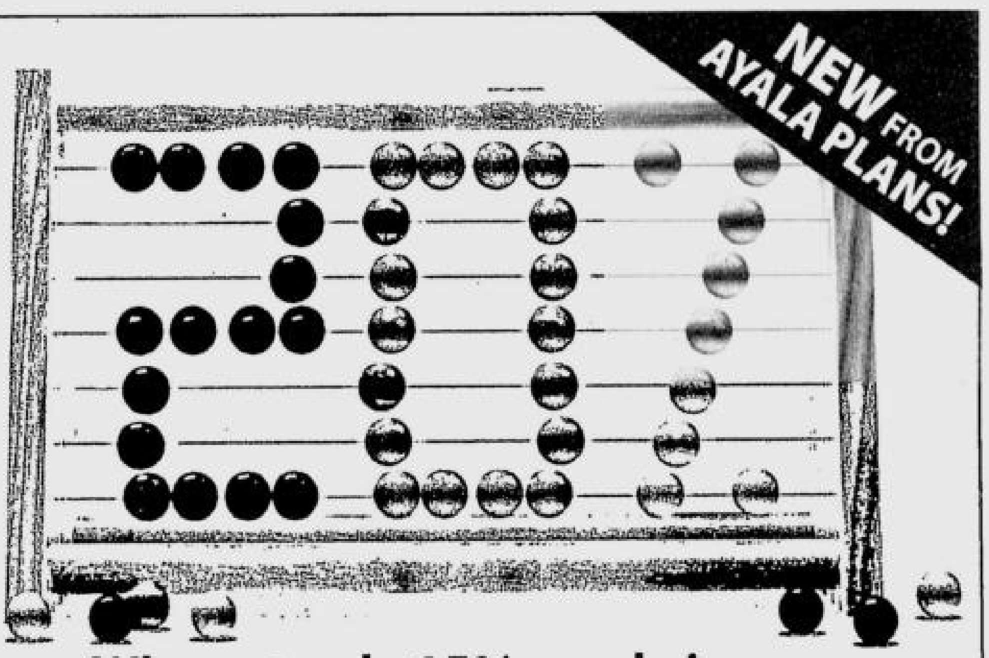
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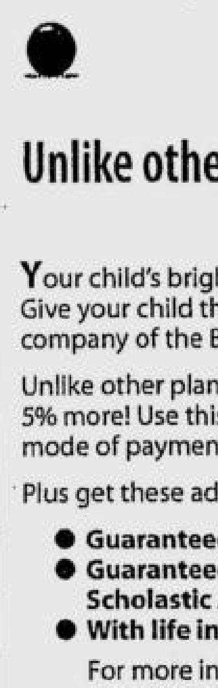

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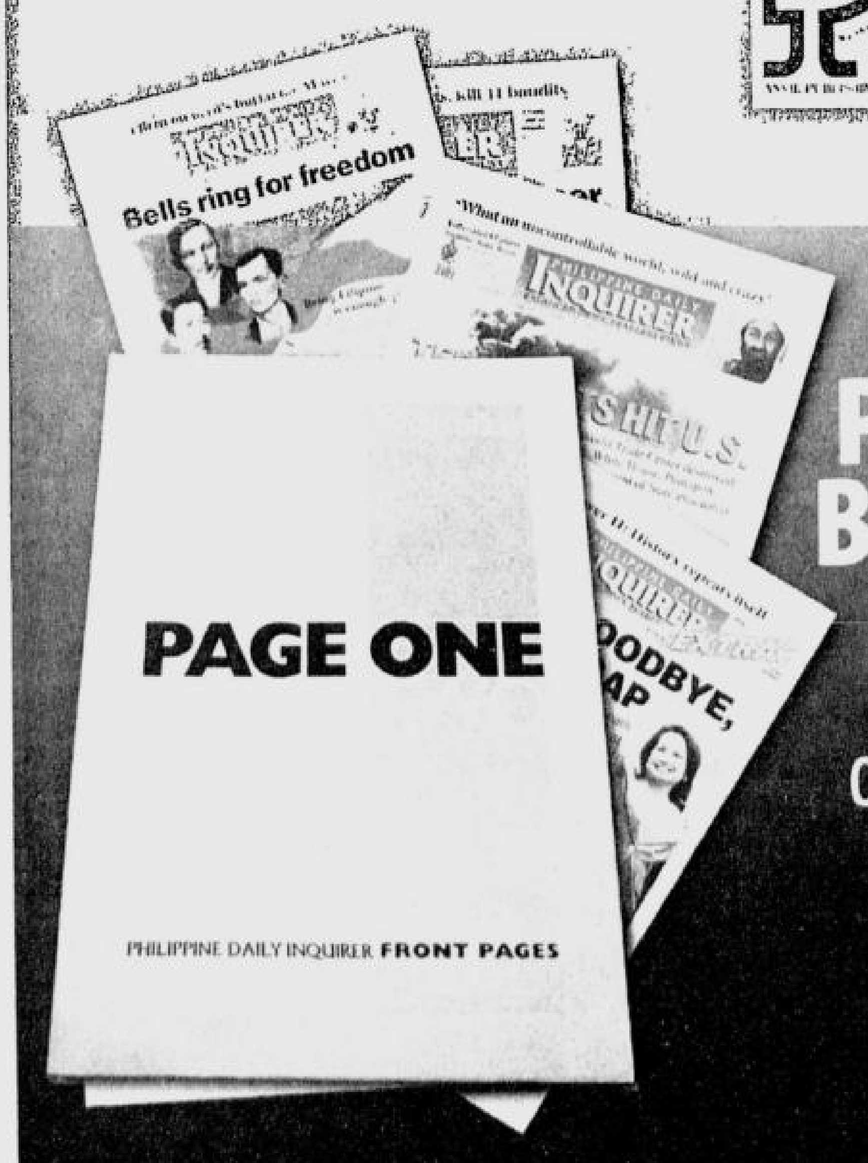
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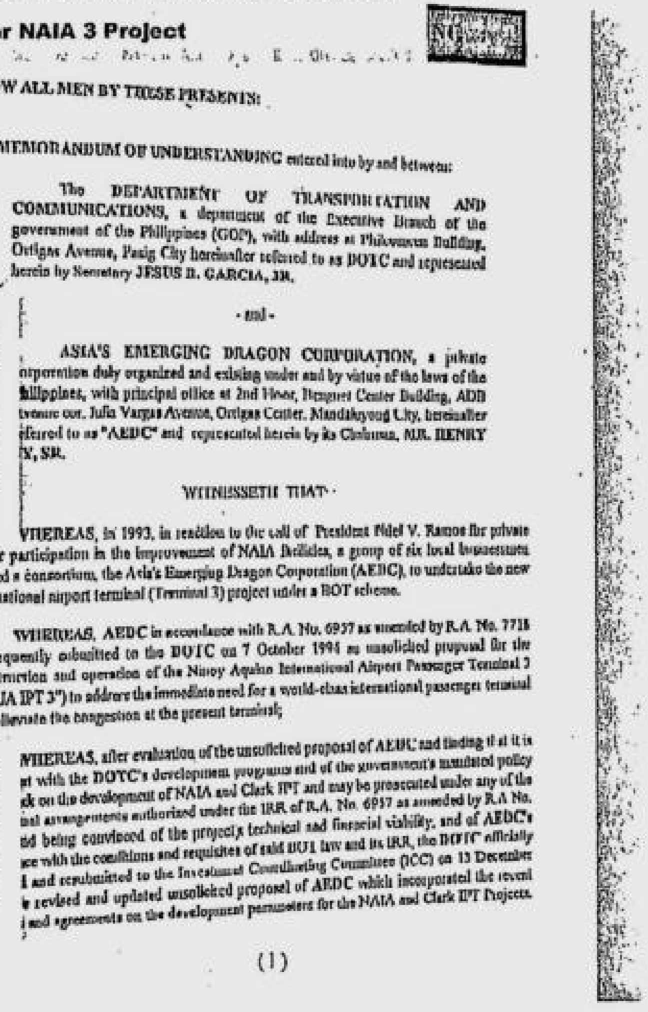
AEDC's FIGHT TO UP

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between Government and AEDC for NAIA 3 Project

in 1993, in reaction to the call of President Fidel V. Ramos for private sector participation in the improvement of NAIA facilities, a group of six local businessmen formed a consortium, the Asia's Emerging Dragon Corporation (**AEDC**), to undertake the new international airport terminal (terminal 3) project under a **BOT** scheme.

convinced of the project's technical and financial viability, and of **AEDC's** compliance with the conditions and requisites of said **BOT** law and its **IRR**, the **DOTC** officialy endorsed and resubmitted to the Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC) on 13 December 1995 the revised and updated unsolicited proposal of **AEDC**...



KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING entered into by and between:

The DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, a department of the Executive Branch of the government of the Philippines (GOP), with address at Philcomcen Building, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City hereinafter referred to as DOTC and represented herein by Secretary JESUS B. GARCIA, JR.

- and -

ASIA'S EMERGING DRAGON CORPORATION, a private rporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the hilippines, with principal office at 2nd Floor, Benpres Center Building, ADB venue cor. Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, hereinafter eferred to as "AEDC" and represented herein by its Chairman, MR. HENRY Y, SR.

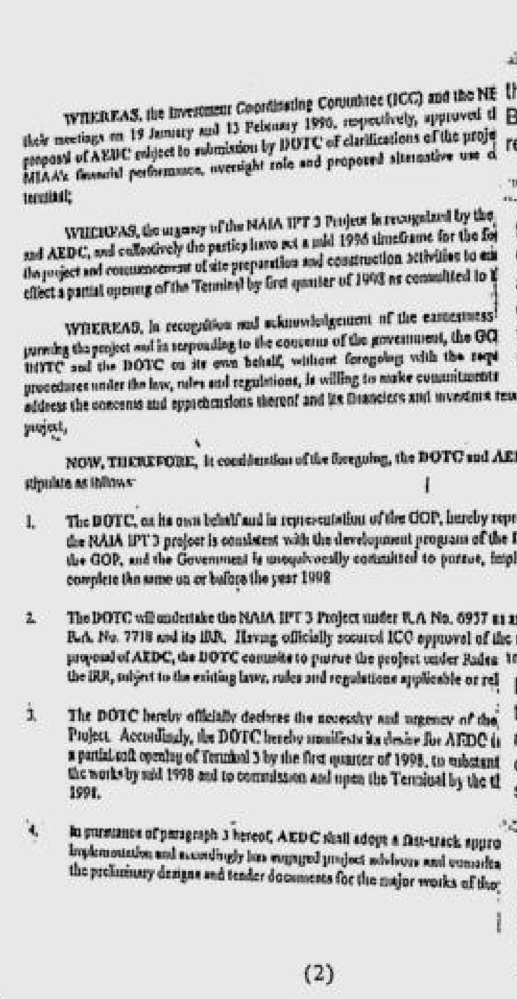
WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, in 1993, in reaction to the call of President Fidel V. Ramos for private sector participation in the improvement of NAIA facilities, a group of six local businessmen formed a consortium, the Asia's Emerging Dragon Corporation (AEDC), to undertake the new international airport terminal (Terminal 3) project under a BOT scheme.

WHEREAS, AEDC in accordance with R.A. No. 6957 as amended by R.A. No. 7718 subsequently submitted to the DOTC on 7 October 1994 an unsolicited proposal for the construction and operation of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Passenger Terminal 3 ("NAIA IPT 3") to address the immediate need for a world-class international passenger terminal and alleviate the congestion at the present terminal;

WHEREAS, after evaluation of the unsolicited proposal of AEDC and finding that it is t with the DOTC's development programs and of the government's mandated policy k on the development of NAIA and Clark IPT and may be prosecuted under any of the nal arrangements authorized under the IRR of R.A. No. 6957 as amended by R.A No. nd being convinced of the project's technical and financial viability, and of AEDC's ce with the conditions and requisites of said BOT law and its IRR, the DOTC officially d and resubmitted to the Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC) on 13 December revised and updated unsolicited proposal of AEDC which incorporated the revised and agreements on the development parameters for the NAIA and Clark IPT Projects.

(1)



WHEREAS, the Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC) and the NE their meetings on 19 January and 13 February 1996, respectively, approved t proposal of AEDC subject to submission by DOTC of clarifications of the proje MIAA's financial performance, oversight role and proposed alternative use o terminal;

WHEREAS, the urgency of the NAIA IPT 3 Project is recognized by the and AEDC, and collectively the parties have set a mid 1996 timeframe for the fo the project and commencement of site preparation and construction activities to en effect a partial opening of the Terminal by first quarter of 1998 as committed to

WHEREAS, in recognition and acknowledgement of the earnestness pursuing the project and in responding to the concerns of the government, the GO DOTC and the DOTC on its own behalf, without foregoing with the requ procedures under the law, rules and regulations, is willing to make commitments address the concerns and apprehensions thereof and its financiers and investors relative to the project,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, the DOTC and AEDC hereby stipulate as follows:

1. The DOTC, on its own behalf and in representation of the GOP, hereby represents that the NAIA IPT 3 project is consistent with the development program of the DOTC and the GOP, and the Government is unequivocally committed to pursue, implement and complete the same on or before the year 1998
2. The DOTC will undertake the NAIA IPT 3 Project under R.A No. 6957 as amended by R.A. No. 7718 and its IRR. Having officially secured ICC approval of the unsolicited proposal of AEDC, the DOTC commits to pursue the project under Rules 10 and 11 of t the IRR, subject to the existing laws, rules and regulations applicable or rel
3. The DOTC hereby officially declares the necessity and urgency of the Project. Accordingly, the DOTC hereby manifests its desire for AEDC t a partial soft opening of Terminal 3 by the first quarter of 1998, to substant the works by mid 1998 and to commission and open the Terminal by the th 1998.
4. In pursuance of paragraph 3 hereof, AEDC shall adopt a fast-track appro implementation and accordingly has engaged project advisors and consulta the preliminary designs and tender documents for the major works of the

(2)

the Investment Coordinating Committee (I Board in their meetings on 19 January and respectively, approved the unsolicited prop

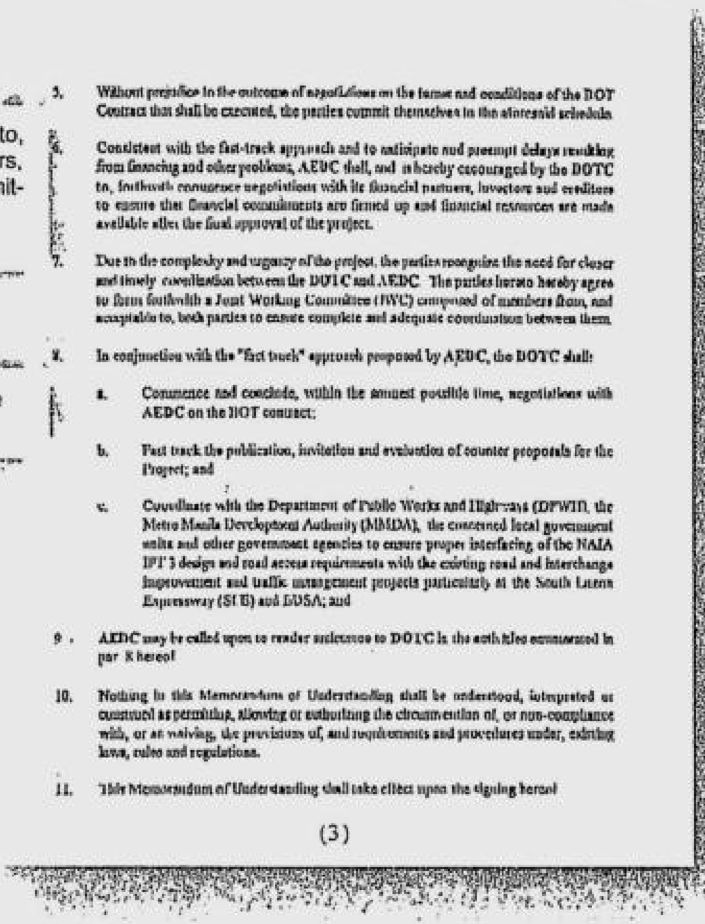
the urgency of the **NAIA IPT 3** Project is r **GOP, DOTC** and **AEDC**, and collectively a mid 1996 timeframe for the formal awar commencement of site preparation and co to enable in turn to effect a partial opening first quarter of 1998...

DOTC hereby officially declares the neces the **NAIA IPT 3** Project. Accordingly manifests its desire for **AEDC** to have at opening of Terminal 3 by the first qu substantialy complete the works by m

AEDC shall adopt a fast-track approach t tation and accordingly has engaged proje consultants to prepare the preliminary de documents for the major works of the pro

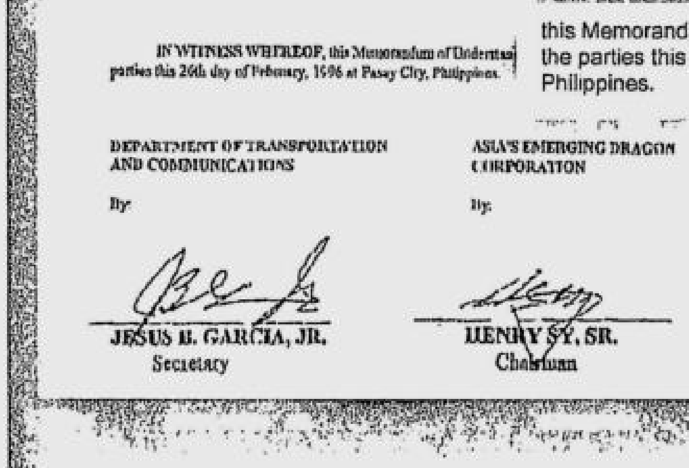
AEDC shall, and is hereby encouraged by the **DOTC** to, forthwith commence negotiations with its financial partners, investors and creditors to ensure that financial commitments are firmed up and financial resources are made available..

a. Commence and conclude, within the soonest possible time, negotiations with **AEDC** on the **BOT** cotract



5. Without prejudice to the outcome of negotiations on the terms and conditions of the BOT Contract that shall be executed, the parties commit themselves to the aforesaid schedule.
6. Consistent with the fast-track approach and to anticipate and preempt delays resulting from financing and other problems, AEDC shall, and is hereby encouraged by the DOTC to, forthwith commence negotiations with its financial partners, investors and creditors to ensure that financial commitments are firmed up and financial resources are made available after the final approval of the project.
7. Due to the complexity and urgency of the project, the parties recognize the need for closer and timely coordination between the DOTC and AEDC. The parties hereto hereby agree to form forthwith a Joint Working Committee (JWC) composed of members from, and acceptable to, both parties to ensure complete and adequate coordination between them.
8. In conjunction with the "fast track" approach proposed by AEDC, the DOTC shall:
   - a. Commence and conclude, within the soonest possible time, negotiations with AEDC on the BOT contract;
   - b. Fast track the publication, invitation and evaluation of counter proposals for the Project; and
   - c. Coordinate with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the concerned local government units and other government agencies to ensure proper interfacing of the NAIA IPT 3 design and road access requirements with the existing road and interchange improvement and traffic management projects particularly at the South Luzon Expressway (SLE) and EDSA; and
9. AEDC may be called upon to render assistance to DOTC in the activities enumerated in par. 8 hereof
10. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be understood, interpreted or construed as permitting, allowing or authorizing the circumvention of, or non-compliance with, or as waiving, the provisions of, and requirements and procedures under, existing laws, rules and regulations.
11. This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon the signing hereof

(3)



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Memorandum of Understa parties this 26th day of February, 1996 at Pasay City, Philippines.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
By:
JESUS B. GARCIA, JR.
Secretary

ASIA'S EMERGING DRAGON CORPORATION
By:
HENRY SY, SR.
Chairman

this Memorandum of Understanding has the parties this 26th of February, 1996 at Philippines.

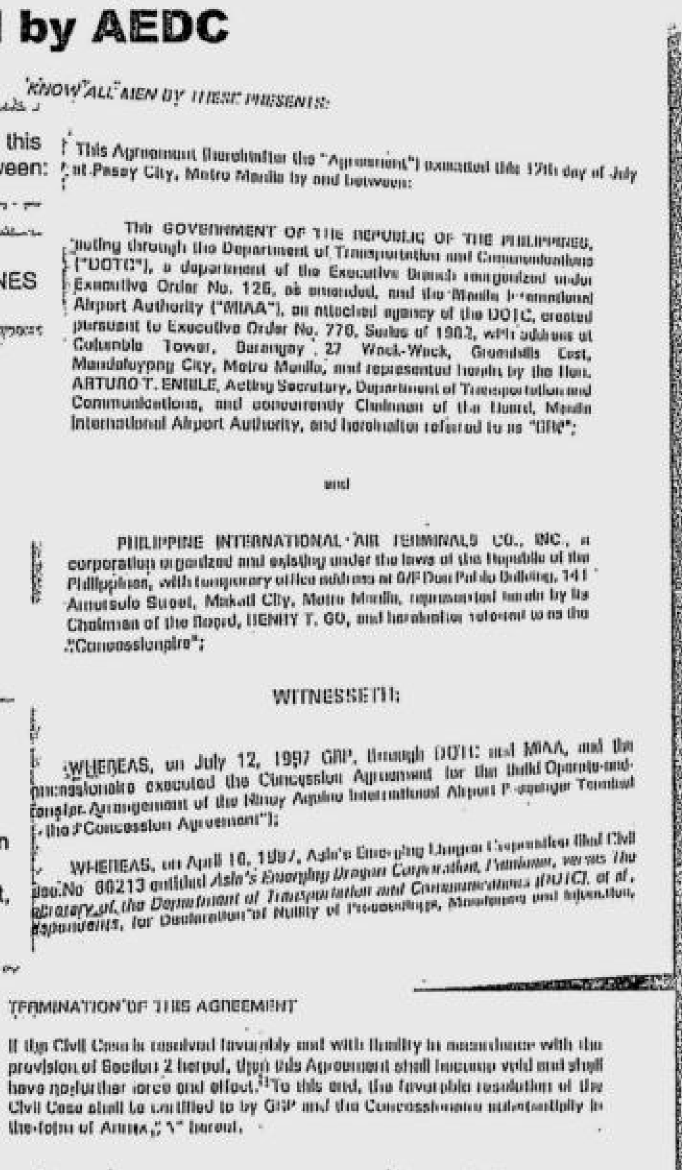
Government-PIATCO Side Agreement Re Civil Case filed by AEDC

This Agreement (hereinafter the "Agreement") executed this 12th day of July 1997 at Pasay City, Metro Manila by and between:

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL AIR TERMINALS CO., INC.

WHEREAS, on April 16, 1997, Asia's Emerging Dragon Corporation filed Civill Case No. 66213 entitled *Asia's Emerging Dragon Corporation, Petitioner, versus The Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), et al., Respondents*, for Declaration of Nullity of Proceedings, Mandamus and Injunction which case is currently pending before the Regional Trial Court, National Capital Region, Branch 261 (the "Civil Case");



KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This Agreement (hereinafter the "Agreement") executed this 12th day of July at Pasay City, Metro Manila by and between:

The GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, acting through the Department of Transportation and Communications ("DOTC"), a department of the Executive Branch organized under Executive Order No. 125, as amended, and the Manila International Airport Authority ("MIAA"), an attached agency of the DOTC, created pursuant to Executive Order No. 778, Series of 1982, with address at Columbia Tower, Barangay 27 Wack-Wack, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, and represented herein by the Hon. ARTURO T. ENRILE, Acting Secretary, Department of Transportation and Communications, and concurrently Chairman of the Board, Manila International Airport Authority, and hereinafter referred to as "GRP";

and

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL AIR TERMINALS CO., INC., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, with temporary office address at 6/F Don Pablo Building, 141 Amorsolo Street, Makati City, Metro Manila, represented herein by its Chairman of the Board, HENRY T. GO, and hereinafter referred to as the "Concessionaire";

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, on July 12, 1997 GRP, through DOTC and MIAA, and the Concessionaire executed the Concession Agreement for the Build-Operate-and-Transfer Arrangement of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Passenger Terminal III (the "Concession Agreement");

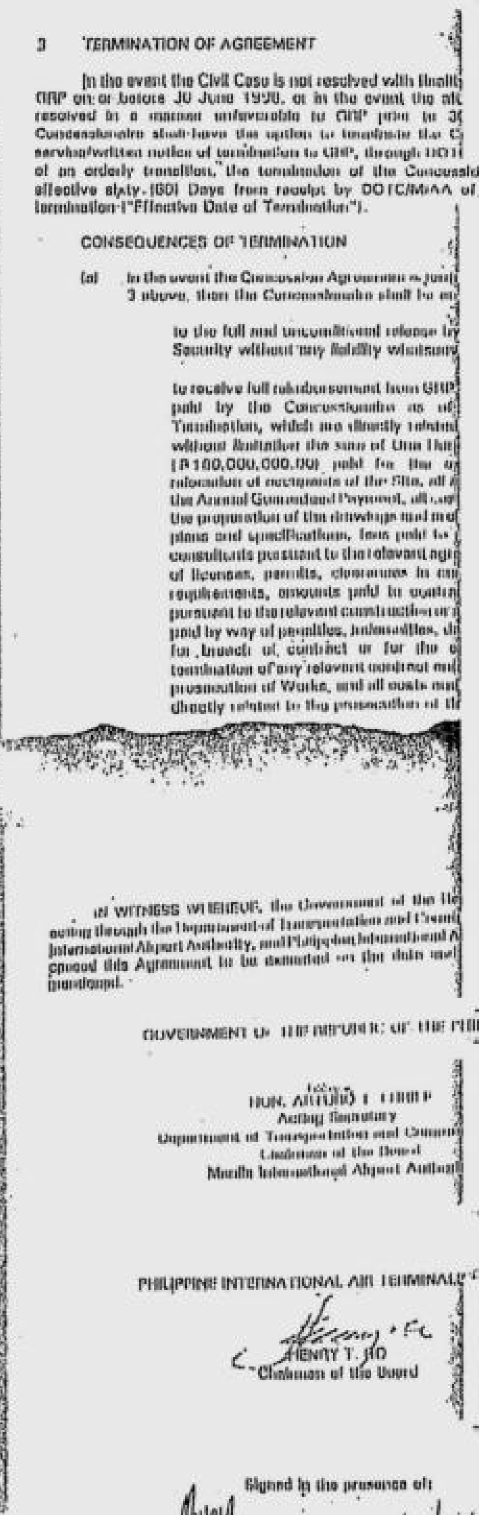
WHEREAS, on April 16, 1997, Asia's Emerging Dragon Corporation filed Civil Case No. 66213 entitled *Asia's Emerging Dragon Corporation, Petitioner, versus The Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), et al., Respondents*, for Declaration of Nullity of Proceedings, Mandamus and Injunction,

TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

If the Civil Case is resolved favorably and with finality in accordance with the provision of Section 2 hereof, then this Agreement shall become void and shall have no further force and effect. To this end, the favorable resolution of the Civil Case shall be certified to by GRP and the Concessionaire substantially in the form of Annex "A" hereof.

TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

If the Civil Case is resolved favorably and with finality in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 hereof, then this Agreement shall become void and shall have no further force and affect. To this end, the favorable resolution of the Civil Case shall be certified to by GRP and the Concessionaire substantially in the form of Annex "A" hereof.



3 TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

In the event the Civil Case is not resolved with finality GRP on or before 30 June 1998, or in the event the afo resolved in a manner unfavorable to GRP prior to 30 Concessionaire shall have the option to terminate the C service/written notice of termination to GRP, through DOT of an orderly transition, the termination of the Concession Agreement shall be effective sixty (60) Days from receipt by DOTC/MIAA of the written notice of termination ("Effective Date of Termination").

CONSEQUENCES OF TERMINATION

(a) In the event the Concession Agreement is termi 3 above, then the Concessionaire shall be en

to the full and unconditional release by Security without any liability whatsoev

to receive full reimbursement from GRP paid by the Concessionaire as of Termination, which are directly related without limitation the sum of One Hu (P180,000,000.00) paid for the relocation of occupants of the Site, all the Annual Guaranteed Payment, all the preparation of the drawings and plans and specifications, fees paid to consultants pursuant to the relevant agr of licenses, permits, clearances in com requirements, amounts paid to contra pursuant to the relevant construction or paid by way of penalties, indemnities, da for breach of contract or for the termination of any relevant contract and prosecution of Works, and all costs and directly related to the prosecution of th

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Government of the Re acting through the Department of Transportation and Comm International Airport Authority, and Philippine International A caused this Agreement to be executed on the date and mentioned.

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

HON. ARTURO T. ENRILE
Acting Secretary
Department of Transportation and Comm
Chairman of the Board
Manila International Airport Authori

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL AIR TERMINAL

HENRY T. GO
Chairman of the Board

Signed in the presence of:

In the event the Civil Case is not resolve favorable to GRP, on or before 30 June aforesaid case is otherwise resolved GRP prior to 30 June 1998, then the Con option to terminate the Concession Agree

4. CONSEQUENCES OF TERMINATIO

a. In the event the Concession Agre to Section 3 above, then the Con to the following:

   i. to the full unconditional release Security without any liability wh

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Former Pres. Fidel V. Ramos with six Filipino taipans who incorporated the Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. (AEDC) in 1993. Seated (L-R): Andrew Gotianun: Alfonso Yuchengco (4th from left) and Henry Sy. Sr. (right). Standing: Lucio C. Tan (2nd from left); George S.K. Ty (3rd from left) and John Gokongwei (4th from left).

Twelve years ago, six taipans responded to President Fidel V. Ramos' plea for private sector support. The taipans agreed to build a new international class airport terminal as their legacy to the Philippines. Thus, Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. (AEDC) was organized in 1993.

In October 1994, AEDC submitted its formal proposal for the construction and operation of the NAIA International Passenger Terminal 3 (NAIA 3). After obtaining NEDA-ICC approvals, DOTC accepted and approved the NAIA 3 project and signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 26, 1996 (see copy of MOU, upper left hand). Project details were subsequently stipulated and the new terminal's opening was scheduled for the third quarter of 1998. The MOU embodied AEDC's entitlement to implement its proposal as a matter of law and as provided under the Build Operate Transfer (BOT) law.

AEDC'S FAST TRACK APPROACH

AEDC made good its promise, fast tracking implementation of the NAIA 3 project. It engaged technical and financial experts including Asian Appraisal, Inc.; ICF Kaiser Leigh Fisher; Gensler Associates; S.C. Labro and Geotesting International, Inc.; GAIA South; Allied Banking Corporation; Filinvest Capital, Inc.; First Metro Investment Corporation; PCI Capital Corporation; and RCBC Capital Corporation. In the process, AEDC spent hundreds of millions of pesos in initial project costs. And how did incumbent government officials comply with the MOU? By disregarding it and shoving down on us the PIATCO contracts with terms so legally and morally wrong.

GOVERNMENT FORCED AEDC TO WITHDRAW

To protect its rights, AEDC filed on April 16, 1997 a civil case against DOTC et al., to block PIATCO's bid. Claiming that PIATCO is an unqualified bidder, AEDC sought the nullification of the proceedings that allowed PIATCO to present a "Swiss Challenge" to AEDC's proposal. But despite the civil case, government proceeded to sign its controversial Concession Agreement with PIATCO on July 12, 1997.

As AEDC was to discover later, incumbent government officials had a preexisting plan to favor PIATCO. Unknown to AEDC, then DOTC Secretary Arturo Enrile entered into a "secret pact" with PIATCO. Under the "secret pact" (shown on the left) PIATCO could choose to walk away from the NAIA 3 project if AEDC's suit is not "resolved with finality in a manner favorable to government on or before June 30, 1998". Ergo, if government loses the civil case, PIATCO would then be entitled to P180-million plus full reimbursement of expenses, thereby insuring it against all risks.

By signing the lopsided "secret pact", Sec. Enrile effectively constituted government as PIATCO's insurer and put taxpayers at great risk. What would have happened if government lost the case? Taxpayers would have had to pay for government's folly while PIATCO danced its way to the bank.

Realizing government's possible liability to PIATCO, the Office of the President forced all six taipans in 1999 to cause AEDC to move for the dismissal of its suit against the award of the NAIA 3 contract to PIATCO. However, AEDC did not waive its right to the BOT award.

SC VINDICATES AEDC BUT PLANS TO REINSTATE THE VOID PIATCO CONTRACTS ARE IN PLAY

Fortunately, the Supreme Court saved us from the PIATCO contracts. AEDC was also vindicated when the High Court ruled that PIATCO was an unqualified bidder and voided the latter's illegally amended contracts. As a result, AEDC now stands as an unchallenged proponent of the NAIA 3 project.

Despite the SC's final ruling, there are efforts to undermine AEDC's right to operate NAIA 3. That certain government officials expressed support for Manila Hotel's takeover of PIATCO adds further insult to AEDC's injury. Clearly, attempts to reinstate the dead PIATCO deal are now in play. Meanwhile, AEDC, the unchallenged proponent, continues to be ignored and excluded in any plan or discussion concerning the operation of its own proposed airport project.

AEDC only asks for the application of the BOT law. Nothing more. It wants government to recognize and respect its perfected and vested right over the NAIA 3 project. Moreover, as AEDC has offered US$300 million for the NAIA 3 project, government does not need to spend scarce foreign exchange. With this offer, AEDC shows that it has the resources, the will and the expertise to fulfill its commitments under the 1996 MOU.

AEDC has complied with the BOT Law.
Government must likewise comply and execute its Concession Agreement with AEDC.
UPHOLD THE BOT LAW!

ASIA'S EMERGING DRAGON CORPORATION

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OPINION

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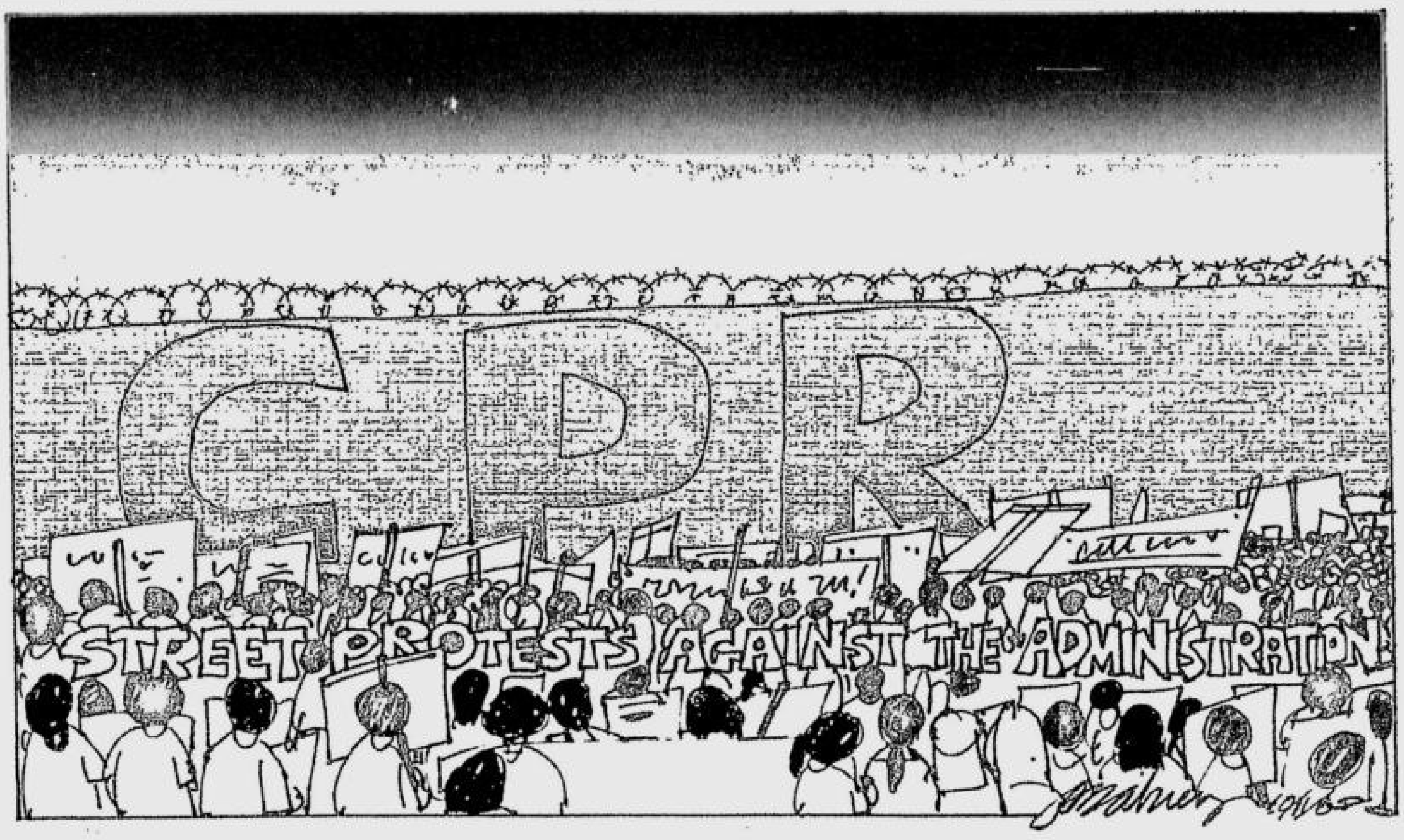
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STREET PROTESTS AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION

Time to prepare

EDITORIAL

THE COMING OF THE AUTUMN MONTHS COULD make the Philippines very vulnerable in case a bird flu pandemic occurs. It is in autumn that migratory birds fly south from the temperate Asian countries to tropical countries like the Philippines where they can enjoy a warmer climate and rich feeding grounds while their home countries suffer the winter freeze. In the process, these wild birds could spread the bird flu virus.

At least two areas in the country have been pinpointed as possible entry points of 77 species of migratory birds. These are Liguasan Marsh which traverses the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, and Candaba, Pampanga and nearby towns.

Liguasan Marsh is an ideal bird sanctuary because of its lush forest that is 40 kilometers long and 30 kilometers wide. Only the other day, Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo warned that his town could be a potential "ground zero"—the seat of a disaster—if the feared bird flu pandemic reaches Philippine territory.

Parts of the 32,000-hectare Candaba Swamp are winter refuge and breeding sanctuaries of Asian migratory birds that are suspected to be carrying the bird flu virus. Candaba hosts about 500 enterprises that raise ducks in wetlands (instead of coops and cages) so that they can feed on rice and corn grits and snails in the swamp.

If the migratory birds carrying the bird flu virus get through to Candaba and Liguasan, it is possible that the virus will ultimately infect chicken and other poultry being raised in Central Luzon provinces like Bulacan, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija. This could severely affect the poultry industry in Central Luzon. Even if no actual infection occurs, it could cause negative publicity that could make people stop buying chickens and eggs, and ultimately ruin the poultry industry.

Many countries and organizations have been warning about the possibility of a bird flu pandemic. The United States at an 80-nation conference in Washington, D.C. said that a bird flu pandemic would be catastrophic. It appealed to governments not to cover up any outbreak. The World Health Organization, through its representative in the Philippines, has also issued its own warning.

What is the Philippine government doing in the face of all these warnings? Some measures have been proposed, and the government agencies concerned have only to study and carry them out.

The migration of birds to the Philippines cannot be prevented, but measures can be taken to control their access to local birds. In Candaba, for instance, it has been proposed that its 250-ha wildlife reserve be fenced and that duck raising in open fields be banned. Swamp rangers could enforce a ban on hunting that could drive the migratory birds to mingle with domestic fowl. A reporting system could be set up and a team of health and agriculture experts could be formed to act as a quick response unit.

The spread of the expected bird flu pandemic could be physically and financially devastating to the country. It could kill hundreds in the country, immobilize thousands of patients and considerably reduce the work force, not just because of actual sickness but also because of fear of catching the disease. It could cost millions of pesos in terms of domestic poultry that may have to be destroyed to prevent the virus from spreading. One bird flu virus, H5N1, is known to mutate rapidly and may later be passed from human to human.

The Department of Health would do well to stockpile Tameflor (generic: oseltamivir), which is known to prevent and treat human influenza and is thought to be effective regardless of the causative strain. The drug, however, is in short supply and so it is best that a stockpile be set up before the supply runs out or its price becomes prohibitive.

The Philippines was one of the countries that went through the frightful 1918-1919 flu pandemic and the less serious pandemics of 1957-1958 and 1968-1969. The Philippines, which is ecologically vulnerable and whose people are physically and physiologically "easy targets" of the disease because of malnutrition, pollution and a generally dirty environment, has to take quick measures to guard against a local outbreak of the bird flu virus that has killed 60 people in neighboring Vietnam. We should have learned the lessons of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic in 2003. Preparedness is the key in preventing a possible health catastrophe in the country.

Catch-up challenge

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

Roxanne: "Look at the leaves. Perfect Venetian red!"

Cyrano: "Yes, they know how to die / A little way from the branch to the earth; / A little fear of comingling with the common dust / And yet, they go down gracefully—a fall that seems like flying." —Cyrano de Bergerac

NEW YORK CITY—"IT'S FALL NOW, LOLA," our 4-year-old granddaughter tells the wife. "That's why it is getting cold."

By the calendar, autumn begins Sept. 22. The chill in the air confirms that. So do the leaves. They're changing now. Soon, there will be a carpet of color: russet, violet, yellow, purple and yes, "perfect Venitian red," as Roxanne says in Edmond Rostand's play.

Botanists tell us that the shorter days and cold will inhibit the leaves' green pigment or chlorophyll. This terse technical explanation doesn't catch the explosion of color. "God spills His paint" is the title of an autumn foliage photo that Alfredo "Ding" Roces, formerly of Manila times, e-mailed.

It's like a sunset at Boracay or Manila Bay (Kuta Beach in Bali, Indonesian friends insist). Once you see it, you never quite forget it. I saw my first autumn foliage carpet on the Mohawk 45 years and 45 pounds ago.

Now, the wife and I are in the autumn of our lives. And to visit children in Michigan, California and New York, we finally dusted off unused travel passes that our son Francis, a Northwest Airlines pilot, regularly sends.

Age squelches the travel itch. Rebound from jet-lag now takes longer. One winces at 17-hour flights. Our joints creak. Before they finally crumble, we better go, the wife and I finally agree.

Come in early autumn, say the kids over Skype. Late summer days can be glorious. And leaves change their colors. And from Malou in Palo Alto, comes the clincher: "Your granddaughter Alexia is asking when are Lolo and Lola coming?"

Every trip jolts you with reminders on the changes sweeping the world of your children.

The priest presiding at the Mass for martyrs is obviously Hispanic. The liturgy is in English. And the prayer invokes a Filipino: "Saint Lorenzo Ruiz of Manila and companions." Pope John Paul II canonized this Chinoy from Binondo for laying down his life in Japan.

The kids are now mature professionals who make their own decisions. Our son Joe chucked his Bankers Trust job in New York and came to the Philippines. "There are 10,000 others trying to go here, you left," my late mother told him. "Never mind Lola. I like Cebu." As Tevye sings in "Fiddler On The Roof": "Wasn't it yesterday when they were small?"

They outdo each other in lavishing attention on you. They give you the best bed, gas up car, serve up your favorite dishes, set aside the faster computer—plus a list of current Broadway plays.

As in the past, they don't flinch when you swipe a book or two from their library. "Your children shall be like olive plants around your table," the Psalmist says.

Our granddaughter Alexia is now 4. She's fluent in English and French. At the Chinese dim-sum restaurant, she thanks the cashier in Mandarin: *xie-xie*. "Oh, you're Asian," squeals the lady at the blonde kid with light-brown eyes. Her doctor-dad is from Sweden but trained at Stanford. He has a number of Chinese patients. Alexia has Chinese lessons.

The wife and I are pleased. Of course! But there's sadness, too. We see in Alexia and in 2-year-old Kristin, another grandchild with Swedish roots, what we read on the long flight over the Pacific: "Equity and Development"—the World Bank's 2006 annual analysis of development issues.

The analysis speaks of "inequality traps—where the cycle of underachievement continues." The playing field is far from level for kids like Alexia or Kristin or 4-year-old Claudia in a Philippine slum.

For kids in less-developed countries, infant mortality is four times higher for the poor than for the rich. Philippine infant deaths are triple that of Malaysia. Babies of indigents are at much greater nutritional risk.

"The main scourge here is tuberculosis," says Sister Ruth. Her community of six Mother Teresa nuns ministers to abandoned children in Pasil, a Cebu City slum. Alexia and Kristin get all needed immunization shots. Claudia doesn't even have a birth certificate.

Many never reach grade school. If they grow up, their schools are shoddier than those attended by children of parents living in "gated enclaves." "Similar inequalities exist in access to credit, even in coverage of the law," says the report.

These adverse effects are reproduced, time and time again—worse, across generations. Ill-fed wizened mothers give birth to dwarfed children, the Asian Development Bank notes.

Equality is one thing, the World Bank points out, and equity another.

"Rather, it is the quest for a situation.... when personal effort, preferences and initiative—and not family background, caste, race, or gender—account for the differences between people's economic achievements.

"Three basic decisions underpin the success of Nordic countries like Norway, Sweden or Denmark," says Jeffrey Sach of Columbia University's Earth Institute. "First, they prioritized education. Second, they built a vigorous private sector. And they made sure no one was left behind."

That's the task for us in the Philippines, even those of us in our twilight years: To make sure Claudia catches up with Alexia and Kristin.

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Logic 102

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I NEARLY FELL OFF MY SEAT READING these comments from a couple of Filipinos living in the United States, which appeared last Friday in the Letters to the Editor section.

From Paul Cruz of San Francisco: "Are we going to burn down our whole house to kill a fly? If Ms Arroyo did cheat, so what? Are we going to get a million pesos because we were right? In the end, all we want is to live a decent life. All this political bickering will win us nothing—just an unstable country with lost investments."

From Lelis Arambulo of Anaheim who wrote in Tagalog, in effect saying: Truly the Philippines cannot hope to progress. The mentality is very divisive! I can't read or hear anything good that President Arroyo has done. It's all accusations that don't get to be proven anyway. Why don't you get united for once?

I don't know if it's the water or Arnold Schwarzenegger, but there must be something addling the brain in today's California. Frankly, I don't know how the authors of these letters got there. Isn't there a test about the American Constitution, or the principles of democracy, aliens have to go through before they are given a green card? I'm presuming that the authors of these letters are more or less permanent residents there, a presumption that comes with Arambulo's advice, "*Magkaisa naman kayo.*" That sounds just like what a Filipino with a green card or US citizenship would say.

To see how inane Cruz's proposition is, imagine him saying that in the United States. Not that he will be listened to—they are a marginalized lot out there—which is why they prefer to lecture the yokels back home on the path to advancement. But imagine him saying that, if George W had cheated massively barefacedly in the last elections, and the fact was being protested bitterly by the Democrats, the press, and the public: "So he cheated, so what? Are we going to get through the winter knowing he did?" He might find himself deported back home where he will find himself just as marginalized.

As I said in a column last week, that is the new element, or nuance, that has crept into the pro-GMA argument today. The tack now is not to argue that GMA did not cheat in the elections, it is in fact to grant it. But to minimize, or even trivialize, its significance. As Cruz puts it, so what? Cheating in elections is nothing to be strenuously exercised about, correcting it is in the order of killing a fly. You do not burn a house down to kill a fly.

Have we reached a point where we are now free to postulate that stealing the vote has become a minor inconvenience to us, the voters, protesting it angrily is just overreacting to a, well, "lapse in judgment"? In fact, if Cruz's metaphor makes any sense, it is only in that the current squatter of Malacañang is truly a pest that will not go away. But stealing an election may be compared to an annoying fly only in the sense that the annoying fly carries the annoying—and deadly—sleeping sickness virus and is sticking it to the children while they sleep. You harbor a virulent fly like that, you fumigate your house, if not burn it. Better a burnt house than dead children.

The proper perspective in fact is: Are we going to flit around like flies while our house burns down? Are we going to sleep comfortably in our house knowing a wrecking ball is swinging in its direction? Stealing an election is setting fire to a house, it is swinging a wrecking ball at it. It demolishes the foundations of democracy. Filipinos in the United States may wish to ask their American neighbors what they feel about being governed by a president they did not vote for.

As to Arambulo, she has heard nothing good about GMA? Well, what good has she done? She has perverted not just every institution in this country but the very thinking of Filipinos. You know you're in trouble when someone starts saying "So what?" to an usurper wielding power. It's not true that the accusations are not being proven, what is true is that the proof is prevented from being presented. That was what the killing of the impeachment complaint by the House was, that is what the ban on anti-GMA rallies and on government officials, civilian and military, testifying to GMA's cheating is. They are meant to suppress proof. They are meant to conscript the citizens into a (Mafia) code of silence.

Unity is not naturally a good thing. The lack of acrimony is not naturally a good thing. In fact, unity for unity's sake sucks. A mob is united, too. Sheep are united too. Lemmings are united, too, when they blindly follow the thing in front of them and throw themselves off the cliff. The only unity worth having is the one based on justice. The notion that the cries of an agonized country are driving away the investors is the same notion that the groans of a battered wife are driving away the guests. The suggestion that an oppressed people should unite with their oppressor so it could advance is the same as the suggestion that a battered wife should stifle her sobs and put rouge on to her swollen face to keep appearances. That is not unity, that is stupidity.

The marvel of it is that Cruz should say we all just want to live decent lives. Indeed, the marvel of it is that Arambulo should think we can get ahead by uniting behind a lie. At the very least, can anyone actually believe that someone who thinks nothing about stealing the nation's votes would think twice about stealing the nation's wealth? At the very most, can anyone actually believe the citizens can build a decent life under an illicit rule?

This government isn't just arresting progress, it's arresting thought.

Embarrassing

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TWO EMBARRASSMENTS HIT THIS COUNTRY in foreign fronts in the last few weeks: first, the espionage involving Filipino Michael Ray Aquino (a fugitive from justice who was allegedly involved in the Kuratong Baleleng and Dacer-Corbito murder cases) and a Filipino-American marine named Leandro Aragoncillo. The latter has the dubious credit of undertaking the first espionage activity in the White House in modern history. He is alleged to have passed sensitive documents to the political opposition in Manila over the past few years, with Aquino as conduit. The Philippine government believes the two spies could not have acted on their own.

* * *

Sen. Miriam Santiago has filed a resolution seeking an investigation of this espionage case. It should be interesting to see how the Senate would react to it, given that the prime suspects in this case are opposition leaders, two of whom are its members. For instance, an FBI agent is quoted by Santiago as saying that one of the three national officials said to have been working with the Pinoy spies is a "presidential contender" with training in espionage work.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former President Joseph Estrada, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Rep. Roilo Golez have made light of the material they have received from the two spies. Lacson found the reports "shallow," while Estrada says they were just picked up from newspaper stories. Yet, it cannot be denied that those documents must have had the words "Top Secret" or "Classified" stamped on them; hence, the opposition leaders knew these were pilfered. The least they could have done was to advise the spies to discontinue what they were doing, not only because it was a breach of inter-government courtesy, but also because the operation posed a grave danger to the spies. But as the FBI agent noted, an e-mail from Manila to Aragoncillo said, "If there are confidential matters that you wish to share, don't hesitate because I was fully trained in this endeavor."

* * *

Then there's the controversy surrounding the rehabilitation of the government's double-track NorthRail project from Caloocan to Malolos. This is to be funded with a $400-million loan from the Chinese government, payable in 20 years, with a five-year grace period on the principal at 3 percent interest. This loan is said to be much softer than the usual loans granted by the Chinese government to other poor nations. The two governments inked the agreement two years ago, and Vice President Noli de Castro has been supervising the relocation of about 30,000 squatter families from the railroad tracks.

* * *

But it hit a snag after the opposition included it among the issues that would have been raised in the Senate trial had the anti-GMA impeachment case reached there. Senate President Franklin Drilon, its principal objector, had commissioned the UP Law Center to study the technical, financial and legal aspects of the NorthRail project. Nothing wrong with that, except that the UP Law Center, in "a stunning display of clumsy investigation,"—as the journalist who originally exposed the error, Star columnist Jarius Bondoc, put it—bungled the investigation. Searching in the Internet, related Bondoc, the Center found a company listed as CNMEC and mistook it as the acronym of China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. (Group), or CNMEG. CNMEC stands for China National Machinery & Equipment Import-Export Corp. and is actually just one of the 70 subsidiaries of CNMEG, China's sixth largest corporation and one of the largest top constructors in the world. But on the basis of that mistake, the political opposition began to hit CNMEG as a pretender company with no capability to construct a $400-million railway project.

* * *

It's a costly mistake that makes our country look quite stupid in the eyes of the world. It's hard to justify the carelessness and amateurishness of the UP Law Center that prepared that study. Thus, PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede's call for its abolition, or at the very least, the resignation of all the lawyers who prepared the legal study on the NorthRail, is quite valid. Abcede noted that the Center has been very partisan in its actuations. He said the Law Center helped prepare the amended impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, which included the NorthRail project as a key issue.

If Abcede's allegations are true, then it's deplorable that politics has taken over even supposedly apolitical academic think tanks, such as the UP Law Center.

* * *

The controversy surrounding the North Rail project has left the Chinese government very concerned. At the farewell dinner Speaker Jose de Venecia tendered for Ambassador Woo Hongbo last week, the latter noted that President Hu Jintao asked GMA at the recent leaders' summit at the United Nations what was taking the project so long. Hu Jintao said that the Chinese "are determined to build the NorthRail as a symbol of RP-Chinese friendship," as he alluded to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries 30 years ago as "the beginning of the golden age" between us.

* * *

Woo related how he once took a ride to Southern Luzon in the only railway running here and how he felt sorry about its condition. Woo, who started his professional life as a young interpreter for British newspapers and is credited with having laid the foundation for the smooth turnover of Hong Kong from the British to the Chinese government, also lamented how one-fifth of RP's population is concentrated in Metro Manila. A good railway system could help decongest the choked metropolis, he opined, and lead RP to prosperity. JDV could only answer that "some misguided people in the Senate, who do not understand our national railway policy, are opposing it."

Plight of small NGOs

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I'VE WRITTEN PREVIOUSLY IN THIS SPACE about the plight of non-government organizations—most of them representing disadvantaged sectors—seeking legal recognition as foundations but stymied by the current requirement (at least P1 million in funds) of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The new regulation is supposed to prevent the registration of spurious, "fly-by-night" foundations and NGOs, particularly those headed by politicians seeking a way to launder the gains of corruption. But at the same time, it also prevents small and truly needy groups from enjoying the benefits of registration, such as allowing donors to claim tax exemptions.

Besides, it would be pretty easy for corrupt officials to cough up the P1 million, while it would be nearly impossible for poorly funded groups, which may already be doing truly good work, to produce that amount.

Now here's another case that calls for consideration and, perhaps, a little more flexibility—especially with NGOs that may not have the resources and ability to fully comply with the SEC's rules and regulations—from the SEC. The Philippine Federation of the Deaf Inc. (PFD) has been serving the Deaf community for the past eight years, particularly advocating for the preservation and standardization of Filipino Sign Language through research, publication and public education. It was registered as a non-stock, non-profit corporation, but its registration was recently revoked after the SEC discovered that the PFD had not been filing annual reports.

* * *

THE STORY behind the SEC's discovery and action is almost comical. The PFD had been unable to file an annual report because first, none of the officers knew of the requirement, and second, it could not afford to hire a regular accountant and auditor. As Julius Andrada, president of the foundation, stated in a letter to SEC Chair Fe Barin: "The consequence of our hearing impairment is not just a loss of sound but a loss of access to information."

In late 2003 though, the PFD was able to secure some project funds that allowed them to hire an accountant, who then prepared a financial report. It was only after the report was filed with the SEC that the foundation's shortcomings were discovered. As penalty, the PFD was slapped with a fine of P21,000, which it had to pay if it wished to retain its SEC registration.

In letters to Barin, Andrada notes that the PFD "has not had any fixed sources of income for the past six years (and) our only current project is for three years (that) covers contractual employees with fixed terms renewable every six months." The P21,000 fine, Andrada adds, could be "used for other projects of the Federation which will help Deaf Filipinos."

* * *

OFFICERS of PFD met with SEC officials some weeks ago to present their case, but in a letter dated Sept. 8, Director Benito Cataran of the Company Registration and Monitoring Department turned down their request for condonation of the penalties.

Apparently, they were also assured that all they had to do to avoid paying the penalty was to register as an entirely new entity with a different name. But in his letter, Andrada says that they wish to retain their name and identity as this is "recognized by the government and the World Federation of the Deaf, our mother organization."

Perhaps, given the PDF's admission of its errors, the SEC could cut them some slack. Their infraction, it seems to me, would pale beside so many graver cases of corporate malfeasance that the SEC has so far been seemingly willing to tolerate.

* * *

"MMJ" is how her sisters in the Maryknoll congregation fondly called Mother Mary Joseph, born Mollie Rogers in Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1882, and founder of the order. Last Saturday, Oct. 8, the Maryknoll Sisters in the Philippines observed the 50th anniversary of "MMJ's" "entrance to eternal life," with a Mass, exhibit, brief program and simple reception at Miriam College.

"History shapes identity," said Sr. Helen Graham, M.M., the homilist at the Mass, "and our common history depends on our capacity for memory. (This is why) we must tell our stories, or we will forget them." Though she belonged to the first generation of Maryknoll sisters who never knew "MMJ" personally, Sister Helen said much of what she knew of the founder came from stories shared by older sisters, some of them still doing missionary work in the Philippines and present at the celebration; as well as from MMJ's writings and "conferences."

Pictures of MMJ in the simple exhibit showed a woman in high spirits and of sturdy disposition. The exhibit chronicles as well the Maryknoll Sisters' growth as a congregation and its apostolates in different parts of the world, including Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Maryknoll's mission in the Philippines began in 1926, with the establishment of the Malabon Normal School, in line with the order's main thrust at that time, which was teacher formation. The fulfillment of that goal was apparent as representatives, not just of Miriam College but also of 12 other educational institutions around the country that were formerly administered by the Maryknoll Sisters, said the offertory petitions.

By the 1970s, the winds of change and reform sweeping through the Roman Catholic Church led to a re-evaluation by the entire Maryknoll order of its work around the world: Was this still in line with its "missionary" roots? By 1977, the "flagship" of the Maryknoll institutions in the Philippines, the college in Loyola Heights, was turned over to lay administrators and re-named Miriam College. Still, despite the passage of time, the bonds of memory and identity ensure that the ties between the sisters and the Maryknoll/Miriam community endure.

Does crime pay?

COMMENTARY

Junefe Gilig Payot
Institute on Church and Social Issues

SOME OF MY FRIENDS ASK ME WHY I STILL GO to church when its leaders have lost so much credibility in recent years, especially in the past months. I tell them that I don't go to church for the bishops. The Church is us, not just them. But many people do equate the Church with the bishops. And so the bishops face the risk of alienating more Catholics because of the perception that they are mired in dirty politics. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was right when she said in her State of the Nation Address that everyone's hands have been sullied.

Of course, it was simply her ploy to justify a shift to a parliamentary system, although any person with common sense knows there is no logic to the proposition that such a system will put an end to this country's dirty politics. How can such a shift now make it possible for anyone to govern with clean hands? The dirt in Ms Arroyo's hands will take eons to wash off. The Pasig River has better chances of being rehabilitated. Yes, there is a need to reform our institutions, but the machinations that led to the junking of the impeachment case against her have taught us that neither Ms Arroyo nor her minions may lead the way.

Like I said, I continue to attend Mass, mostly to pray for the country and for a more stable lovelife. I go to Mass at St. Joseph's in Anonas where I feel at home because the priest who says the 6:30 p.m. Mass delivers homilies that are grounded on current realities. And, of course, 70's Bistro, where they play good music that reflects social realities, is just a stone's throw away.

But one Sunday, just as the priest was beginning his homily, a woman and her daughter came and sat beside me. Midway through the homily, the woman started "texting." I thought that, maybe, she needed to send something urgent and it would just be one message. But less than a minute later, she took out her cell phone again. I gave her the benefit of the doubt once more and hoped that that would be the last. But she continued texting like she was in the comfort of her house. Her continued texting was getting into my nerves and I had to control myself.

I wanted to say something but feared being shouted at as "*pakialamero*." I looked around hoping that someone would do so. But they were also watching me, apparently expecting me to say something, after all I was nearest to her! Before long, her daughter was "texting," too! At some point, everyone simply pretended they were not there.

As a result, I not only missed the last half of the priest's homily. I also found myself wishing that her phone would conk out or be snatched when she got out of the church. Maybe, in my subconscious, I was just looking for company because I myself had just lost mine that week. But the point is: much was ruined by my inaction that evening. And that child now thinks it's OK to "text" during Mass.

If anything good came out of that incident, it was the insight into the events of recent months. The incident let me see clearly that "crime pays." You can cheat and get away with it. You just have to have people who will not do anything to stop something patently wrong or improper.

It would not be surprising if more people—especially those in government—would soon be thinking: "We can also get away with corruption," a mindset that is the last thing our country needs. But thanks to Ms Arroyo, we have just taken a million steps backwards in our uphill struggle against corruption.

Needless to say, this horrendous setback in our war on corruption has as much implications in our fight against poverty, one of our country's priority thrust—so the government says—although everything indicates that Ms Arroyo has been running the government and making crucial decisions that affect the lives of our people, based on her personal interests. Money lost to corruption is food stolen from the tables of our hungry poor and roof taken away from over the heads our homeless. We have given her the benefit of the doubt many times, but she continually betrays us. By insulting our intelligence, it is she who has been engaging in the "politics of insults." Still most of us don't know what to do with her, even as I have heard friends branding her as *kapal* (thick-skinned), *sinungaling* (liar), and *yawa* (Cebuano term for "evil"). I don't know if name-calling will get us anywhere, but if it is a first step to start us talking about how to deal with this problem of leadership called GMA, let's start calling her the worst names!

I wish I could just turn a blind eye to the ongoing political crisis, like I did inside the church with the mother-daughter tandem of text addicts. But that would be impossible to do because Ms Arroyo's face is in every government office we visit, on every train ticket we buy, on TV channels we watch, in newspapers we read.

Most importantly, it's not right to pretend that there is nothing wrong with her leadership. That Sunday incident taught me that inaction will only make her more and more comfortable with her Machiavellian machinations. In fact, in recent weeks, she has been emboldened to go on a "vendetta spree," her minions running after people who have called for her resignation, cracking down on street protests, and even openly challenging the Senate's independence, and issuing a gag order to prevent those who know her "secrets" from revealing the truth.

We may not yet know what to do now. But let us talk about it. Not only is it our right and duty to take this step, it's also a matter of self-respect.

Let's not be paralyzed by the thought that politics is none of our business. We have the duty to ourselves and to our country to be *pakialameros* and *pakialameras*. Our nation's progress is our business.

Injustice of law

YOUNG BLOOD

John Henry C. Liquete

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

SOMEBODY ASKED: HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE A THOUSAND lawyers chained at the bottom of the ocean?

The reply was: A good start.

It is true that some lawyers have turned their backs from the real vision and reason for which lawyers exist.

I have nothing against lawyers. In fact, I hope to be one, someday; I am a now in my second-year law. But certainly I will not be the kind who will defile the temples of justice.

When the impeachment proceedings in the House of Representatives ended, I found myself utterly disgusted with the way the law was used to hide the truth and, worse, make a mockery of justice. To my view, some lawyer-congressmen, by their behavior, disgraced the profession, which supposedly puts premium to integrity and justice.

As a law student, I always have been made to understand that laws are made to protect the innocent, serve the ends of justice and seek out the truth; and to allow an accused to defend himself, punish the guilty and discourage people from doing others wrong. I was also taught that our Constitution was formulated to protect the sanctity of the ballot and strengthen the institutions of democracy, among others. Indeed, our Constitution and our laws do not exist to conceal the truth, encourage wrongdoing and, least of all, suppress justice. And, certainly, they were not meant to be strictly interpreted in their technical and narrow sense, but in the context of justice, righteousness, decency, rectitude and, most of all, integrity.

"Every instance of a man's suffering the penalty of the law is an instance of the failure of that penalty in effecting its purpose which is to deter from transgression," says Archbishop Richard Whately.

But hallelujah, laws have become effective in the Philippines because few suffer the penalty of the law and not because they discourage transgression. For example, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is getting away with a violation of law after just saying "I am sorry."

Indeed, this example demonstrates how the law could be so easily abused—ironically, many times as a means to committing an injustice.

Perhaps, why some lawyers don't care a whit about tarnishing this noble profession could be explained by looking at the quality of law education they got. Most law schools today tend to guide their students into merely focusing on passing the bar and on memorizing laws, for a chance of attaching the initials A-T-T-Y before their names. Nothing about justice and the ends of the law is given due importance.

I am studying law not only because I want to become a lawyer but also because I am awed by its wondrous mechanisms and its power to uphold and celebrate justice, its real and ultimate objective. I want to become a lawyer because I want to play a significant role in promoting the cause of justice.

People may think I'm crazy because I have impossible dreams. But I believe and keep faith that someday this nation will overcome the difficulties it is grappling with right now, and soar high, with much to be proud of, in the eyes of the world. I believe and keep faith in the inner goodness of our people as the key in the transformation of society for the better. The evils we see in our society should not deter us from our pursuit of true justice. I believe lawyers should be among the first to do something to free this world from the debilitating grip of greed and injustice.

There will be those saying that I am not practical, that I am too far off from reality. These are probably the ones who have lost hope in our people. We have to revive that hope in them to create a society that is founded in and driven by idealism. A revolution in the heart and the mind is called for here. We need revolutionaries to persuade our citizens into becoming active participants in our nation's quest for justice.

I'm 20 years old now. My age has absolutely nothing to do with my dreams. Young or old, age should never be an excuse for a person's "state of idealism."

Unfortunately, today's politicians don't listen to what we, the young, have to say; they would not hear the "hope of the fatherland." Our cries, like our demand for GMA's resignation, have landed on deaf ears. When we air our discontent and voice our aspirations, people in government complain and label us as destabilizers, communists even. How can we light the flames of hope in our country if our voice remains unheard?

We appeal to the so-called leaders of our country: Lend your ears to us, we have a lot to say and a lot to suggest. If you really believe we are the hope of the future, as we often hear you say, then listen to us. (Many of us have become cynical and apathetic because of the callousness of many of our public officials.)

When I get my law degree, I may be familiar with the law and jurisprudence. But when I step out into the real world, will I find them relevant to the life of every man and woman in this country at least, and being applied as well to promote the cause of justice? I'm worried, given the present situation, that I will find myself out there as if I know nothing.

Still I would like to believe that most of our lawyers, unlike lawyer-politicians, are not deaf to our people's cry for justice and righteousness.

John Henry C. Liquete, 20, is a Political Science graduate from Saint Louis University. He is in his second year at the San Beda College of Law.

THEY SAID

Rare gem

"There are so few people of your ilk. You are truly a treasure that we cannot allow to simply slip away, but must make sure that you live not only in our hearts but also in the hearts of generations to come."

—Prof. Solita Monsod in her eulogy for former Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac

Melting hearts

"After they heard us sing, their cold hearts melted."

—Ed Manguiat, conductor of award-winning choir UP Singing Ambassadors, on how they faced racial prejudice in foreign countries

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Five of many reasons why GMA deserves to stay in Malacañang

1. HER HONESTY. SHE HAS SINgle-handedly revealed to the world the lack of morality in the way we deal with anything political. With Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her cronies around, we learned to accept the fact that corruption is natural, even expected. Thus, we resign ourselves, our children and their children to a nation ruled by crooks, with our very own so-called President the biggest of them all. Filipinos everywhere can't be any prouder. Now our children only has to look "up" to GMA as their role model, and we, parents, don't have to do any extra work.

2. Her acting prowess. Where previously actors wanted to be politicians, GMA shifted the equation by morphing from the unwanted leader she was to the loathsome actor-wannabe she has become. She first stunned the unwitting Pinoy voters by posing a la Nora Aunor, fumbled through her Iron Lady façade, and in her biggest act yet, made puppetry more convincing than ever with her "I am sorry" monologue that broke records—and TV screens! With the Filipino taxpayers' hard-earned money at her disposal, GMA remains a "bankable" showbiz star capable of playing the most complicated roles and outdoing "X-Men" and "Harry Potter" combined.

3. She's got the brains. She can change the way we believe, including how not poor, not unemployed and not homeless we are. With a stroke of redefined statistics terminologies, she has successfully insulted our intelligence, hoodwinked and mass-hypnotized us into believing things can only get better if she stays on top, while we are "squeezed" down here.

4. Her blessedness. If not for her prayers, boxer Manny Pacquiao would not have won! If not for Pope John Paul II and all those saints and dead people, she would not have gone after the presidency. GMA is indeed "The Anointed." Thus, to save us Filipinos the trouble of choosing our next leaders, the holy trinity of GMA, Fidel Ramos and Jose de Venecia is moving heaven and earth to make us dance the "Cha-cha" to the tune of "Hello Garci."

5. She has "caliber." Who needs martial law when you can spin new words like "calibrated preemptive response (CPR)," "rule of law" and "glorious day," and hire a foreigner called "Venable" to make "Filipinos," "sovereignty," "Bill of Rights" and "Constitution" things of the past? So as the "Merchant of Malacañang" is telling us, it's time to sell, sell, sell! After all, it's only the Philippines on the auction block—and us, Filipinos.

Are we really giving everything up to a wolf in sheep's clothing, who insults our God with the fang of the devil, after stealing our votes and morals, lying about our present and future, and cheating us of our nationhood and government? It is time we reclaim the power that is ours before GMA and her crooks totally blind us into believing she is our only salvation. Because the alternative has been us all along.

—DENNIS TORRECAMPO,
dentorrecampo@yahoo.com

In defense of America

THIS IS IN REACTION TO LUIS Teodoro's commentary titled "Amerika." (PDI, 9/30/05)

I was born and raised in Manila until my family migrated to the United States when I was 18 years old. I worked full time while I was studying full time at a state university to earn my electrical engineering degree. I was also a corporal in the Marine Corps Reserve. I enlisted in the marines when I was 19. I'm now in my late 20s and an officer in the Air Force.

I earned everything I have by my own efforts and perseverance. Here in America, you can go as far as you can dream only if you're willing to work for it. Can you say the same thing about the Philippines? Does everyone have the same opportunity there to become what they want to be?

I am, therefore, incensed at Teodoro's insinuations that the United States is no better than Nazi Germany and is the source of all that is evil in the world.

Teodoro himself admitted to have found shelter here (why not USSR or China), apparently as an "exile" from Marcos' rule, for some time. It's true there's racism in American society, but which society hasn't? We, Filipinos, are probably as racist as any other society in the world.

America is not a perfect country. It has made mistakes in foreign relations, but where would we all now be if it weren't for America? We'd probably be under the Axis' rule and worse off. Would Teodoro have chosen to be a slave to Imperial Japan? Moreover, which country, more than any other, has helped most countries? Which country can claim it has never received help (humanitarian or economic assistance) from the United States?

I find inconceivable and incredible Teodoro's claim that the Jarque couple were jailed in their underwear. The Left (Democrats and liberals) in the United States would have had a field day if this were true.

After 9/11, to protect Americans and foreigners living in the United States, the American government issued stricter guidelines for the issuance of visas and other entry permits to the United States. This measure—among many—may not be perfect, but what law is? As a citizen, I have to obey the law even though I don't like it; and if I don't like it, I can vote someone into the US presidency who would change the situation. That is one of the freedoms I enjoy here, the freedom to elect someone who would represent me and my interests. On this, what can be said of the Philippines?

But for all I said, in no way am I ashamed of my roots. I'm extremely proud to be Filipino by blood and heritage. I have children and I want them to know the best Filipino traits—loyalty, honor, integrity, and most important of all, a sense of family. However, it pains me to think of the questions they'll ask when they're old enough, about what is going on in the Philippines today.

All that Teodoro is capable of is to blame everything on the big, bad America; and unfortunately, to pass on his bigotry to his poor (figuratively speaking) students at the University of the Philippines.

—ALVIN CORTEZ,
alvin.cortez@edwards.af.mil

Volunteer policemen

HERE WE ARE AGAIN. FOUR members of our police force involved in a crime that led to the death of a one-year-old child. What barbarity! They deserve the death penalty, period. And how I wish I were the President; without any hesitation or reservation, I would put these criminals to death in full public view!

Is the Philippine National Police a useless peacekeeping organization, whose members have no moral values and no self-respect? The boorish image of the organization should be a serious concern for society and the national leadership. And may I make the following suggestion to make the PNP more efficient. It may be a reflection on the poor image of the PNP that citizens of this country go to the extent of making this recommendation.

There are peace and law-abiding professionals who may be willing, in the spirit of volunteerism, to set aside one day a week or a month to help the PNP in managing traffic, analyzing cases, writing case reports and monitoring police performance in the professional way. The volunteers may be given full police authority in and out of duty. The professionals can pay for their own uniforms and accessories, including licensed handguns. They can even report for duty with their own laptop computers so they can work faster and more efficiently.

Only the best should be allowed to serve, those who are respected in the community. This will allow the PNP personnel to mingle with decent professionals as hands-on partners in police work, and learn from them the way of real professionals.

Not only could this approach improve the PNP's image and its relationship with the civilian communities. It will allow the force to field more people and to save big on its budget.

—WILBUR DEE,
67A Kalmito Ave., Phase 2,
TCEV, Antipolo City,
wiliz@pldtdsl.net

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RIGHT to assemble peaceably and **CPR** in a face-off.

PDI PHOTO

Corruption in gov't ignites protests

THE FOODFIRST INFORMATION & Action Network-Philippines (FIAN Philippines) strongly opposes the repressive acts being done by the Arroyo administration. The rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of speech and expression are basic human rights that must not be curtailed by any government.

For as long as our government remains corrupt, for as long as the government does not adequately respond to the need of its citizens, for as long as the truth is hidden, the people will hold protest actions, with or without a permit. During martial law, the authoritarian regime of President Marcos banned all peaceful assemblies but this did not stop the people from organizing and holding rallies, pickets and strikes.

If the fake President is using the calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy, the basic sectors should also respond with another CPR: courageous, people-based resistance. It is only through active resistance that we can ferret out the truth, assert our human rights and oust the illegitimate occupant of Malacañang Palace.

—RAFFY REY HIPOLITO,
policy advocacy officer,
FoodFirst Information & Action
Network-Philippines,
9B Matulungin St.,
Barangay Central, Quezon City

NBI policy abets drug abuse among the young

IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2005, the National Bureau of Investigation published an advertisement in several newspapers, the INQUIRER among them, warning that it was going to run after computer (PC) owners using pirated or unregistered operating systems, starting Sept. 16, 2005.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco did make good his agency's threat, but may we raise these concerns:

1. The ads stated that the crackdown was to start Sept. 16, 2005. But NBI agents raided Internet cafés owned by young entrepreneurs in Davao City, on Sept. 15, 2005, the day Wycoco was in Davao City. Why? What for?

2. Many of the operators complained of the way the operation was carried out. There were even demands for money even as the fines "skyrocketed."

3. Does Wycoco think he is helping the country? Most of the affected young entrepreneurs just borrowed the capital they put in their Internet cafés. As a result of the NBI raid, many of the cafés closed shop. Is Wycoco trying to encourage users of Internet cafés, most of whom are young, to instead pass their time in drug abuse, or drinking, or criminal activities? This seems to be what Wycoco wants. What for, so he can ask for a bigger budget to fight the rising tide of criminality?

4. In case Wycoco doesn't know, the NBI raid only added to the woes of Internet café operators, who went through so many headaches because of the unreasonable red tape requirements of the city government, its business bureau, in particular.

With the closure of the Internet cafés, Wycoco and his men should be commended for serving the rights and interests of Bill Gates and associates.

We just wonder why it is the computer buyers/users whom the NBI chooses to punish when, in fact, Internet café operators just buy their computers, complete with operating systems, from suppliers. Would these units sell without the accessories?

—SALCEDO RAMAS,
Purok 2, San Vicente,
8105 Panabo City

Aspiring nurse worries about doctors taking up nursing

NOWADAYS, I THINK MORE AND more people want to be a nurse mainly because of the much better income they can earn abroad as nurses. I am a nursing student, and I was very much alarmed by the news report of Christian V. Esguerra, which appeared in the Aug. 4 issue of the INQUIRER, about the 6,000 doctors who are now taking up nursing. I was alarmed because doctors and medical professionals, with their experience, obviously have a head start over aspiring nurses.

In this predicament, the Department of Health should act fast to help aspiring nurses. It should set limits for medical professionals shifting to nursing so that they would not deprive young Filipinos who want to become nurses of opportunities.

I understand that people must earn money in order to survive, but I hate the idea of going into the profession just to make money. If that's one's goal, then I don't think he or she deserves to be a nurse. I believe that nursing is far more than earning big bucks.

To medical professionals who want to shift to nursing, please give us a chance. It's our turn now anyway.

—MARY GRACE P. CEDULA,
Moret Street,
Sampaloc, Manila

De Castro cannot compare with Estrada

RAMON TULFO TRIED VERY hard to sell Vice President Noli de Castro in his Sept. 15 column as a suitable replacement for embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It was totally uncalled for to build up De Castro at the expense of former President Joseph Estrada. Erap's qualities and performance record are a non-issue in as far as De Castro's "suitability" to become president is concerned.

More than his abilities or lack thereof, De Castro can never be an acceptable president to the majority of Filipinos since he, like Ms Arroyo, is perceived by the people to have benefited from the cheating in the 2004 elections.

On Tulfo's claim that De Castro is more intelligent than Estrada, the two men's respective track records, I'm afraid, would show the exact opposite. Estrada was as good a mayor, senator, vice president and president one could get, while De Castro has accomplished nothing as a senator and now as Vice President.

Without a script, De Castro cannot expound on even the simplest of ideas, and relies heavily on his spokesmen, like Jesse Andres, to carry him through press conferences. In contrast, Erap can hold his own in an exchange of intelligent repartees.

—ERNESTO JAVIER,
37 Apo St., Mandaluyong City

INQBOX

Your message to the newly crowned Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman?

You quench our thirst for good news!
You are a heaven-sent goddess of relief!
—Jayne L. Castillo, 46, *Tuguegarao City*

my preciousss.....!
—marco Antonio tejada, 40, *Lucena city*

Lara.. would U marry me?
—ryan lim, 21, *cagayan de oro city*

You gave our country the medicine of hope in our present political crisis, congrats and thank you!
—Guillermo N. Reyes, 49, *Tayabas, Quezon*

Congratulations! You carry d spirit and beauty of a true Filipina—full of compassion, simple yet magnificent!
—Glenda Inserto, 50, *Malinao, Aklan*

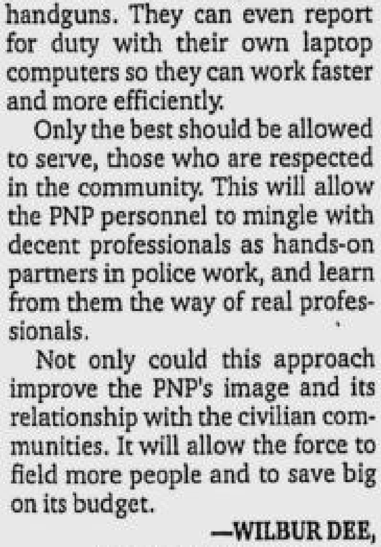
Congratulations! I wish her the best of luck, be yourself, enjoy and be an ambassadress of goodwill.
—THELMA CORPUZ, 36, *IMUS, CAVITE*

Thank u 4 making d Philippines 1st again. U proved once again that Filipinas don't have only beauty, but also brains. Good work!
—amy torres, 29, *quezon city*

congrats! U are proof that d Filipino can still triumph despite d odds. may U serve as an inspiration 2 d whole country!
—RODRIGO V. DELA PEÑA JR, 23, *La Union*

ANG HUSAY MO! Isa kang sariwang hangin na nagtataboy sa umaalingasaw na lagay ng pulitika dto sa ating bansa.
May your tribe increase!
—gigi sicat, *muntinlupa city*

Congratulations! I wish her good health, stay humble and keep up the good work by spreading love, peace and righteousness.


Iba tiga ang beauty ng Pnay !

—IMEE ESPEJO, 39, *IMUS, CAVITE*

may her tribe increase dat she should strive more 2 be ms.Universe. Congrats!
—fernando laus, 31, *baguio city*

DOnt let Pres. Arroyo use ur crown 2 make her image look good. Mabuhay ka Ms. Quigaman!
—kim, 30, *albay*

good job & thank u! 4 bringing honor to the country.
—Gibson Noel Hamlag, 14, *Tagbilaran*

Galing mo Lara! U never gave up on ur ambition 2 be d best, kahit me mga failures 2loy pa rin. Pinaganda mo ang araw namin!
—JMendoza, 29, *manila*

Ano pwede mong GAWIN pra sa bansa sa gitna ng kinakaharap na krisis, kahirapan & kaapihan ng masa. Sna maka-apekto ka naman sa lahat.
—roxanne gale r. Villaflor, 17, *qc*

Lara, i support U in ur advocacy of helping underprivileged children. we need pipol lyk U, instead of bickering politicians!
—RODRIGO V. DELA PEÑA JR, 23, LA UNION

Congrats, Lara! Thank U 4 inspiring & encouraging d Filipino women 2 believe in themselves. U are reli PRECIOUS.
—Jennifer S. Cabote, 23, *Santiago City*

Congrats Laura! Ur victory had once again proven dat Filipino women have charm, beauty & talent dat they can be proud of!
—Edgardo S. Maligat, 45, *Manila*

U are so precious. U made my ma ma proud! congrats!
—conry triquero, 38, *q.c.*

we luv u lara, iv cried when i knew a newly ms.International won. ur kababayan here in cebu are rly proud of u.. More power.
—kareil Fernandez, 18, *cebu city*

Thank u 4 making us proud.
—joseph galang, 32, *pampanga*

I hope u won't join other beauty queens hu got lured by sumptuous offers by showbiz people 2 pose nude 4 mags or do sexy muvis
—Leinilyn Gascon, 32, *NVizcaya*

wla nang mas gaganda sa kay miss.Lara! Filipina sa buong mundo cya ang pnakamaganda!
—Ikel, 30, *makati*

Thank U 4 giving honor 2 our country. We Filipinos couldn't explain how proud we are. U rili deserve d crown. Mabuhay tayo!
sheila manalang, 28, olongapo

Lara, U live up to ur Precious name &4 dat, U bring honor, not juz 4 urself, but 4d nation, as well. U are a real gem with a heart!
—Sam Cruz, *Pasay City*

U have made us become proud again 2 be Filipinos. esp in these times of crisis, doubts, n lack of trust in govt. Thanks Lara!
—marelita Garcia, 32, *lipa city*

to ms.Lara just be urself, n keep in touch with God through prayers. Mabuhay ka at ang Pilipinas.
—romeo s. copas, 36, *makati city*

cOngratz lara! U are an inspiration to everyone who wants to make a difference in dis world, in spite of the odds.
—jeanne villaganas, 23, *lapulapu city*

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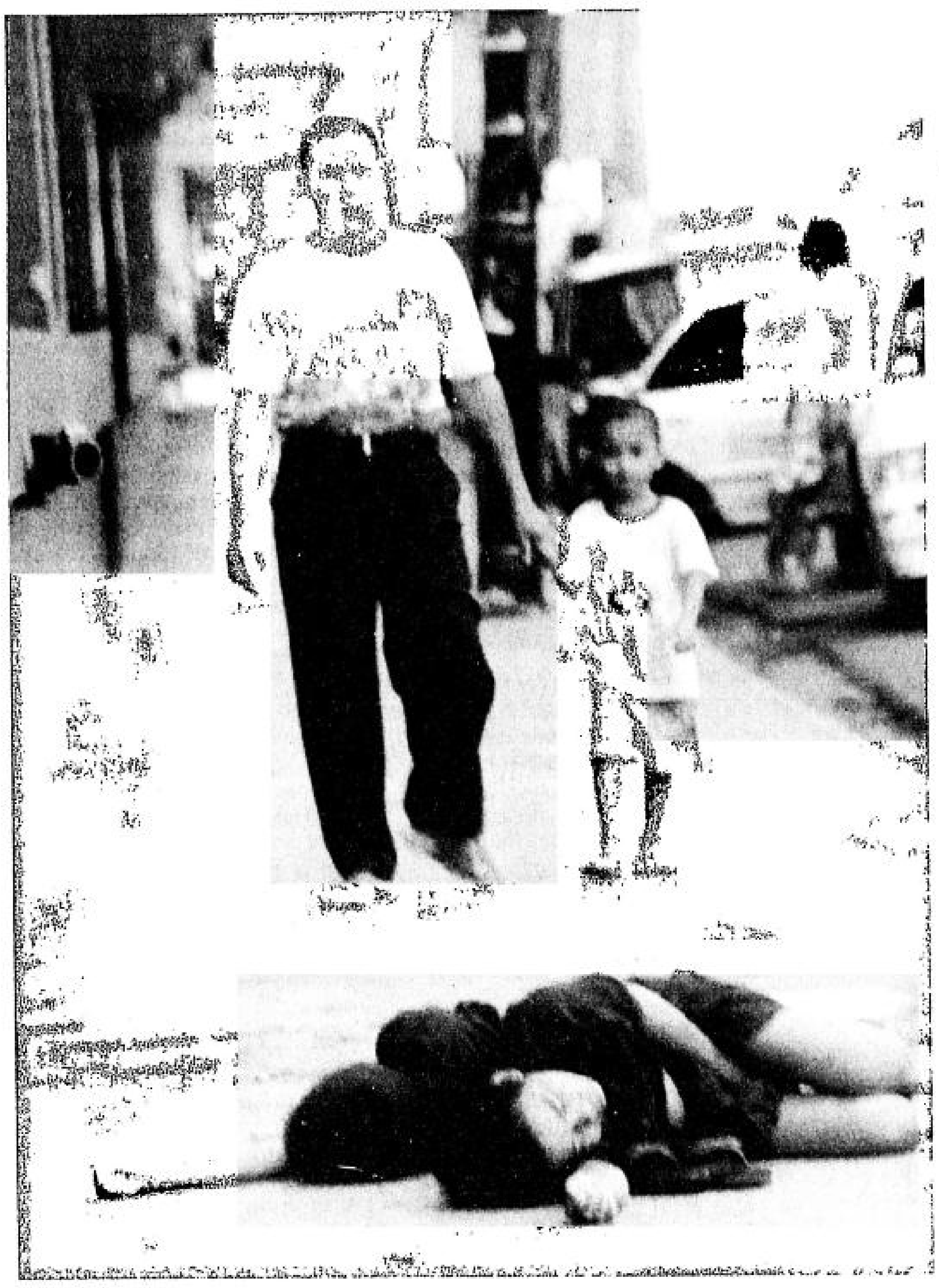


CONCRETE BED BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
A father and son appear apprehensive as they walk toward homeless children sleeping in the sidewalk on Ilustre Street, Davao City.

Coco fuel seen to run Visayas power plants

BAGUIO CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS testing coconut methyl ester (CME or cocodiesel) as an alternative fuel for the oil-fired power generating plants of the National Power Corp., to reduce the Napocor's dependence on imported fuel.

The state power firm is vulnerable to the unstable world crude market and a new 10-percent value added tax on oil.

Divina Chingcuangco, country director of the United States Agency for International Development's sustainable energy development program, announced the tests in the Visayas, where most of Napocor's gasoline-powered generators are located.

This is because Napocor has no technical facility to connect all of the islands under a single power grid.

Chingcuangco made the announcement on Thursday after notifying Mayor Braulio Yaranon that the DOE had received American test results about the chemical integrity and the makeup of CME.

Baguio was selected by the USAID clean cities program in 2002 to pilot CME use in the country, but the top three oil firms had challenged the chemical durability of CME and had refused to carry the product among their retail stock.

DOE had asked an independent American firm to test the Philippine product. Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla will announce the findings in two weeks, Chingcuangco said.

According to the US Energy Information Administration's analysis, the country's dependence on imported oil "makes the Philippine economy vulnerable co sudden spikes in world oil prices."

"The Philippines consumed 356,000 barrels per day on average in 2001... resulting in net oil imports of 347,540 barrels per day," when it deducted the country's own oil and natural gas production for the period.

The American agency said "the Philippine oil import bill increased by over 70 percent during the first eight months of 2000 [and expected] oil consumption to increase by 5.9 percent annually over the next several years. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ilocos Sur wins poverty reduction award

VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR—THE PROVINCE of Ilocos Sur has been judged "Best Implementor" of the Provincial Poverty Reduction Program (PPRP) of the Regional Development Council, National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), Ilocos Region.

The provincial government was cited for its various livelihood projects that have greatly helped ease the plight of the poor in Ilocos Sur's 768 barangays, according to Dr. Enri Mendoza, presidential assistant on the North Luzon Growth Quadrangle area.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, in a statement, said he named as action officers all the mayors of the province's 32 towns and two cities with specific instructions to monitor the projects and file weekly progress reports.

The governor himself makes regular visits to the barangays "to personally see to it that the problems that crop up are promptly and properly addressed," Mendoza said. "To further ensure success, Governor Singson now plans to appoint an action officer from each barangay to pinpoint priority areas."

JDV assails Senate for series of probes

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—SPEAKER JOSE de Venecia assailed the Senate for supposedly provoking a confrontation with Malacañang through investigations on supposed irregularities in government.

DE VENECIA

"The people are fed up with so many investigations every week. [These could] even endanger our diplomatic relations with other countries," De Venecia told reporters during the inauguration of a dialysis center at the Region I Medical Center on Sunday.

The Speaker said he was annoyed at the "constant fighting and paralysis within the executive and the legislative [branches of government], and the paralysis between the Senate and the House [of Representatives]."

"We should work out a modus vivendi (an agreement establishing a temporary compromise between two groups in conflict) and work out a process of reconciliation because this confrontation between Malacañang and the Senate is very unhealthy," he said.

But when asked what should be done to patch things up between the Senate and the House, he said: "It's up to them (Senate). The House has been reaching out to them for many months, many years."

He said reports saying that the proposed Charter change would not pass through the Senate were unfair.

"[The senators] can oppose it or they can debate it and they can present alternatives *pero huwag naman sabihing pagdating sa Senado* (but please don't say that when it reaches the Senate), it's dead in the water. *Sinentensyahan na agad* (They have already judged it). They should debate it with us," De Venecia said.

The Speaker also clarified a news report that it will take 10 to 15 years to shift to parliamentary system.

He said it would be the shift to a federal system that the government will seriously consider.

"The shift to a unicameral system will be immediate. But the shift to a federal system will take 10 to 15 years because you have to create several federal states, regional states all over the Philippines with their own assemblies, with their own taxation power [and] autonomy," he said.

Bulacan town police chief sacked in war on 'jueteng'

BULACAN, BULACAN—THE CHIEF of police here was relieved due to the alleged continuous operation of the illegal numbers game "jueteng" in this town.

Supt. Noli Pacheco received his relief order from Senior Supt. Benedict Michael Fokno, Bulacan police director, on Friday following the arrest of three suspected jueteng collectors in this town.

Reports said policemen from the Philippine National Police's headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City arrested the three suspects after their colleagues informed policemen of their supposed involvement in jueteng.

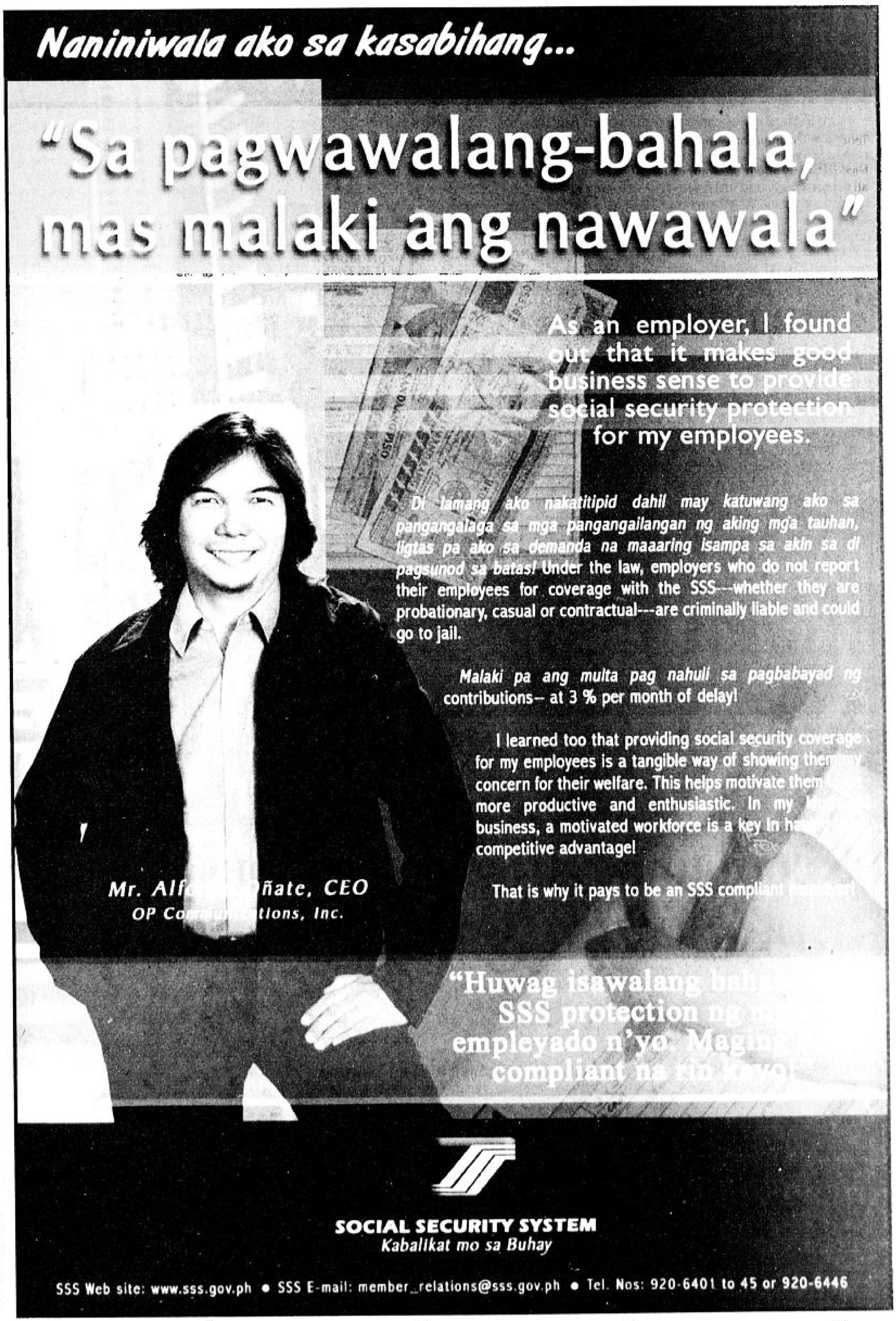
Director General Arturo Lomibao, PNP chief, has imposed a "one-strike policy" on police officials who would fail to stop jueteng operations.

Under that policy, town police chiefs would be automatically relieved if higher authorities arrest even just one jueteng collector in their areas.

SPO4 Roberto Bituin, deputy police chief here, denied that jueteng is still being operated in this town.

Police sources said the arrested suspects were collecting bets in another town.

Bituin said the local police have been closely monitoring the activities of former jueteng bet collectors here to ensure that they would not resume their operations. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



Naniniwala ako sa kasabihang...

"Sa pagwawalang-bahala, mas malaki ang nawawala"

As an employer, I found out that it makes good business sense to provide social security protection for my employees.

Di lamang ako nakatitipid dahil may katuwang ako sa pangangalaga sa mga pangangailangan ng aking mga tauhan, ligtas pa ako sa demanda na maaaring isampa sa akin sa di pagsunod sa batas! Under the law, employers who do not report their employees for coverage with the SSS---whether they are probationary, casual or contractual---are criminally liable and could go to jail.

Malaki pa ang multa pag nahuli sa pagbabayad ng contributions-- at 3 % per month of delay!

I learned too that providing social security coverage for my employees is a tangible way of showing them my concern for their welfare. This helps motivate them [illegible] more productive and enthusiastic. In my [illegible] business, a motivated workforce is a key in ha[illegible] competitive advantage!

That is why it pays to be an SSS compliant [illegible]

Mr. Alf[illegible] Oñate, CEO
OP Co[illegible]tions, Inc.

"Huwag isawalang ba[illegible] SSS protection ng [illegible] empleyado n'yo. Maging [illegible] compliant na rin kayo!"

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2 Filipino women unhurt in Pakistan quake

TWO DAYS AFTER IT HAPPENED, Gina Oclarit could still see in her mind the apartment building in Islamabad toppling before her eyes.

And she would still break down and cry.

"I could still see them. I could still feel it," Oclarit said in a phone interview with GMA television last night, recounting how she survived Saturday's quake which killed thousands of people in Pakistan.

"I could still see the people, still see them crying," she said, between sobs.

Oclarit said she saw the 11-story Margalla Towers collapse from a window of her room in another building.

Ten people died and over 100 were injured in the crash of the Margalla.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said another Filipino, Jane Lapus, who apparently was in the same building as Oclarit, was also unharmed.

No Filipino casualties have been reported.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, said the PNRC was ready to send three teams to Pakistan to help in rescue efforts, and they would leave once the Pakistani government gave the go-signal.

Official records showed there were 550 Filipinos in Pakistan as of April 2005.

Oclarit said she felt her room sway violently.

"I hung on to the window grills," she said.

"That was when I saw the building [in front] going down."

Oclarit said she froze in panic until her sister called telling her to get out.

"The things in my room started falling. The walls cracked," she said.

She rushed downstairs, not realizing she was the only one left in her building. *Reports from Volt Contreras and TJ Burgonio*

Quake death toll seen reaching 40,000

From page A1

tank in New Delhi.

"Every major tragedy gives rise to a wave of sentimentalism [but] these things are not decided by sentimentality," he told The Associated Press.

Kashmir is simply too deep a wound in the political psyches of both India and Pakistan to be healed quickly. The two nuclear rivals have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir that left the Himalayan region divided between them by a ceasefire line.

Cold and traumatized

On Saturday, death visited both sides of that border, but much more so Pakistan. In Indian Kashmir, the toll was 750.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh spoke with Pakistani leader Gen. Pervez Musharraf by telephone to offer relief and rescue assistance. Musharraf told CNN he was considering Singh's offer and would ask for "whatever we need," but cautioned that it may not be easy.

Rescue teams struggled to reach cold and traumatized survivors cut off in the mountains of northeast Pakistan.

Roads were blocked by landslides. Power and water supplies were down, hospitals and schools destroyed.

"It is a whole generation that has been lost in the worst affected areas. The maximum number affected was schoolchildren," military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan said.

In many places, people dug through the night with their bare hands in an often futile attempt to reach friends and relatives trapped in the rubble.

Anger built as help failed to arrive.

"Our town has been turned into a heap of rubble ... but there is absolutely no help in the past two days," said Mohammad Zaheer, a survivor in the shattered town of Balakot.

'Cold will kill us'

"We survived the earthquake but now we realize we will die of hunger and cold."

Offers of aid and assistance poured in from around the world.

The United States said it had provided $50 million in initial aid. The World Bank offered $20 million while the Asian Development Bank pledged $10 million.

The United Nations said more helicopters were needed urgently to bring rescue equipment and aid to villages high in the Himalayas.

UN agencies in Pakistan had begun transporting small amounts of relief items, such as blankets, tents, medicine kits, food, water purification tablets and water containers.

No more cries

The earthquake struck Saturday morning as schools were beginning classes, and hundreds if not thousands of children were feared to have died when buildings collapsed or were engulfed by landslides.

In the ruined town of Balakot, where about 1,000 children were feared buried in collapsed school houses, the smell of death was robbing parents of hope.

The unmistakable odor of rotting bodies engulfed the scene. Residents said that for a while there were cries coming from the rubble—but by Sunday evening, those signs of life were gone.

At a women's college in the town, some 300 people were buried. One of the victims was the college principal.

Shops looted

In Muzaffarabad, dazed residents of the once-pretty town in the Himalayan foothills milled about their ruined streets, many asking for food and water.

"People have started looting things from shops. They've lost everything, they have no clothes, no food, nothing," said Asim Butt, a resident of the city closest to the epicenter of the quake.

No rescue work

Groups of people were carrying bodies through the streets or pushing them on trolleys. Crushed cars were everywhere, sticking out of mounds of rubble.

"Government leaders are giving a false impression in the media. There's been no rescue work," one angry man shouted.

Hundreds of Muzaffarabad people working elsewhere have been streaming back to the city.

"I can't recognize this place," said one man arriving back. *Reports from AFP, AP, Reuters*

Palace: No martial law

From page A1

ing to strong arm-tactics, including the issuance of Executive Order No. 464, which prohibits Cabinet, military and police officials from appearing in congressional hearings without the President's permission.

"Without formally announcing it, they are doing it already. What is EO 464 but a step resembling martial law?" Pimentel said.

He said the executive order was meant to muzzle government officials who are called upon to testify in congressional investigations and to cover up the abuses and blunders of the administration.

Preemptive response

A bipartisan group of 16 senators had agreed to go to the Supreme Court to question the legality of EO 464. The tribunal has directed Malacañang to justify the issuance of the controversial order.

Administration Sen. Manuel Villar also expressed concern about EO 464 and the implementation of the calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy against protest rallies. Under the CPR policy, protest rallies without permits are prohibited.

"I am just worried at the series of orders such as the CPR and the prohibition on Cabinet members (from attending investigations). I hope these will be withdrawn," Villar said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon called on the Arroyo administration to observe transparency and accountability, saying these have become the biggest casualties of EO 464.

Drilon said that under the 1987 Constitution, the government was mandated to implement a policy of full disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest and maintain honesty in the public service.

But he said the principles of public transparency and accountability were thrown out the window in the administration's bid to parry allegations of poll fraud and questions about the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo's presidency.

In his remarks at the start of the weeklong celebration of the Senate's 89th anniversary, Drilon defended the various investigations being conducted by the Senate which prompted the issuance of the executive order.

"We will not let EO 464 go unchallenged," he said, citing the Senate's decision to question the constitutionality of the order.

"An independent and functioning legislature should be empowered to check on the other branches of government; it should be able to freely inquire into matters of public interest, not only in aid of legislation but also in exercise of its oversight functions," she said.

Legal basis for martial law

In the House of Representatives, Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said EO 464 "is a hair breadth away from an outright declaration of martial law."

He said the final act would be the approval of the antiterror bill (ATB) in the House.

"If the infamous ATB is approved, GMA (Ms Arroyo) would gladly succeed in laying down the legal basis for martial law," Beltran said.

Local government executives would also oppose any move by the government to put the country under martial rule in case the economy worsened, according to Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone.

"I know several governors and LGU leaders are in the same breath with me," Evardone told reporters at the 14th anniversary of the Local Government Code and the launching of the Kilos Asenso program at the Manila Hotel. *(See related story on Page A2.)*

"We will oppose, we will not allow martial law, especially at this point in time," said Evardone, who is the spokesperson of the Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines.

He also said he did not believe emergency powers were necessary at the moment.

Economy doing well

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri, who was also at the Manila Hotel, said the economy was "doing well enough."

Asked about the justice secretary's proposal for the government to take over vital industries in case the economy worsened, Neri surmised that Gonzalez was looking at the possibility of the political problems getting worse.

"The political problems get aggravated over time, but right now the economy, indicators (show) the economy is doing well enough," he said.

Asked how far the government was from declaring a state of national emergency, Gonzalez said: "What is important is the economy. Even if there's a rebellion, when all of us are prosperous and well-fed..."

He dismissed fears that the national emergency would involve arrests. "You don't have to make arrests in order to take over vital industries."

For now, Gonzalez said he was holding the draft proclamation but he would give it to the President if she asked for it.

Gonzalez said the state of national emergency was different from martial law, which is subject to review by Congress and the Supreme Court under the Constitution. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac*

74 maids gain access to cyberspace

From page A1

Internet use—in particular, emailing.

They are the program's first batch of graduates. Some of them, like Bauat, finished vocational courses, while others, like 51-year-old Remedios Borlaza, were college graduates.

The ages of the participants varied—from 23 to 60 years. They also included a couple—the husband worked as a family driver while his wife worked as a household helper.

All the classes (students pick a schedule depending on their days off), held every day for three hours, are taught by 29-year-old Bryan Chan, a computer science graduate who works as an administrative assistant at the Owwa center in Hong Kong.

Going home

The graduates, who waited for the simple ceremony to start, filled the modest function room of the Empire Hotel in Wan Chai with their happiness, enthusiasm and optimism for the future.

"Many of them said they no longer feel like they're domestic helpers," Owwa administrator Marianito Roque said.

Bauat and Borlaza both said their computer skills, particularly in using the spreadsheet, would come in handy when they set up their own businesses when they finally go home "in a few years' time."

Borlaza, a psychology graduate back home, has been working for the same British family in Hong Kong for nearly half her life. "Now I can record and track down whatever (financial) investment and savings I have," she said.

Added knowledge

Yolly Saway, who turns 61 on Oct. 22, was the oldest graduate in the batch. She's excited to apply her new knowledge as president of their association in Hong Kong, the Oriental Mindoro Society.

"Now I can type my notes and have my own files in the computer. I won't be afraid to touch my ward's computer, thinking I might erase her files. She also can't charge me a dollar for every page I ask her to print for me," Saway said with a laugh.

Virgie Suja, 32, said she signed up for the free courses for the additional knowledge.

All four women said they were lucky their employers were supportive of their education, and even allowed them to use the families' computers.

Helping bridge

Last year, Owwa became the recipient of Microsoft's Unlimited Potential grant, described as the company's "global initiative focusing on improving lifelong learning for underserved young people and adults by providing technology skills through community-based technology centers."

The program hopes to enhance the potentials of the Filipino workers abroad, and serve as a bridge (thus the program name "Tulay") for OFWs and their families back home by teaching them how to communicate via e-mail, video conferencing and chatting.

From the $60,000 donation from Microsoft, Owwa established training centers in its headquarters in Pasay and Cebu cities, where workers are given computer lessons before they leave the country, as well as in in Taichung, Taiwan and in Hong Kong.

The Tulay program is also found in OFW centers in Singapore and Malaysia. It is run by two NGO partners.

Upgrades

Roque said Owwa added funds to the grant so computer monitors could be upgraded to the LCD plasma models, which could be used for at least five more years.

Microsoft will provide maintenance funds for one year, after which Owwa will take over.

Roque said Owwa would be spending some $16,000-$20,000 for the maintenance of the training center in Hong Kong, located at the Hillier Commercial Center in Sheung Wan.

The agency has "grand dreams" of adding classes in web design and other courses that would help in the reintegration of the OFWs when they return home.

Word of mouth

Already, 500 OFWs have registered for the program, filling up slots until August next year.

Meliza Mendizabal, Owwa welfare officer and the training center's manager, said that with the first graduation, she expected more OFWs to inquire about the program simply by "word-of-mouth."

"The students actually told me they wanted to have longer class hours so they could learn more," she said.

"It takes strength of character to choose to study rather than spend time for rest and relaxation from the heavy and demanding work that you have here in Hong Kong," Philippine consul general to Hong Kong Corazon Belmonte-Jover told the graduates during the ceremony.

Pang-lifetime

The graduates also wrote short notes to Microsoft and Owwa, expressing their gratitude for this rare opportunity.

"Age didn't matter in learning," Adelaida Mogul, 55, wrote.

Another said that she was happy to be part of the global community living in the computer age.

As for Bauat, she said that this time, she won't forget her computer lessons.

"I'll buy a laptop, even just a second-hand one, just so I can practice. What I've learned is very useful and *pang*-lifetime *na*," she said.

US cool to RP offer of help in spy case

From page A1

pine police senior superintendent.

Accused of receiving classified FBI documents from Aragoncillo, Aquino has been indicted on charges of conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent in the United States.

Espionage damaging for RP

Palace officials have said that the leaking of the FBI documents was part of an opposition plot to oust Ms Arroyo. She survived an impeachment attempt last month on allegations she rigged the May 2004 presidential election.

"We are concerned over the negative implications of this incident on Filipinos who are building a career not only in the United States but also in other countries," Bunye said in a statement.

"This is an embarrassment for our people who deserve an apology from those who messed up the good name of our country."

Bunye said bilateral ties with the United States remained strong "despite the shameful act of this political cabal," but expressed concern that "self-serving politicians can ruin our diplomatic integrity by spying on our allies."

Several opposition politicians, including detained former President Joseph Estrada, have all acknowledged receiving information from Aquino.

But they all denied that they received classified US data.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson has dismissed the value of the dossiers as "shallow information."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said he had information that an administration lawmaker who joined Ms Arroyo's delegation in New York last month had planned to meet with Aragoncillo but this did not push through because of Aragoncillo's arrest.

Pimentel did not reveal his source but he said he wanted to find out what the agenda of the meeting was all about.

"They might have a connection (to Aragoncillo), but they're making it appear that it's the opposition which has links with him," Pimentel said.

Officials sent to US

Gonzalez said he was interested in the documents to determine if they had any implications on opposition attempts to unseat Ms Arroyo.

He said Justice Undersecretary Ernesto Pineda and Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation had been dispatched to Washington upon the request of the US but declined to disclose details.

But Gonzalez said Pineda would speak on behalf of the Arroyo administration. He said he expected "political repercussions" from Aragoncillo's investigation.

"With his request for a plea bargaining agreement, he might become a whistle-blower," he said.

He declined to comment on NBI reports indicating that the two would look into the US accounts and properties of Lacson, allegedly one of Aragoncillo's handlers.

Gonzalez said it was "logical" that these things were looked into to establish the money trail. "The US should know that better, not us."

"We'd like to know who are the people involved, how far is their involvement? That's why a money trail is important. There is definite linkage of this to destabilization," he said.

The two officials are set to return to Manila in three days.

Administration lawmakers yesterday welcomed US Charge d'Affaires Darryl Johnson's statement over the weekend that news reports on the US Embassy assessments of the Philippine situation had been distorted to suit the opposition's interests.

Surigao del Norte Rep. Prospero Pichay said Johnson confirmed his earlier statement the US reports on Filipino personalities and political developments had been twisted to magnify US criticism of Ms Arroyo's person and policies.

Pichay said he got his information from members of the opposition and his sources in the international community.

"We finally heard the side of the US government about these reports. The statement of (Johnson) confirms ... that the US reports peddled here were massaged to give a negative picture of the administration and the Philippines," Pichay said.

Pichay, along with Representatives Antonio Cuenco of Cebu, Monico Puentevella of Bacolod and Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar, expressed appreciation that the US Embassy finally broke its silence on the papers.

Investigate brains

"We reiterate the call to investigate the masterminds of the (espionage case) since the intent of the operation was to unlawfully topple the Arroyo administration," Pichay said.

Puentevella said Philippine authorities should likewise do a parallel investigation as to how the espionage operations violated Philippine laws and undermined the Arroyo administration. *With reports from Armand Nocum, Norman Bordadora, TJ Burgonio and Tina G. Santos*

METROBRIEFS

Manila cops in rally violence face charges

TWO policemen allegedly involved in the mauling of rally participants last Wednesday are now facing administrative charges. Manila Police District (MPD) Supt. Arturo Paglinawan, chief of General Assignment Section, identified the policemen as SP02 Renato de Ramos and P01 Edyly Dato of the detective beat patrol unit and civil disturbance management group, respectively. Television news footage showed the two policemen punching defenseless men in separate incidents during the dispersal of a demonstration against President Macapagal-Arroyo in Manila last week. One of the demonstrators was already inside a police van when one of the policemen hit him on the face. The other policeman was caught on video punching a rally participant who was already being held by another man. Paglinawan said the two had been grounded and would be asked to do office work in the meantime. He added that criminal cases could be filed against the policemen depending on the results of the investigation. Earlier, MPD director Pedro Bulaong stressed that the no permit-no rally policy remains. "We are just enforcing the law," he said, adding that rallies without the necessary permits only tend to disrupt public order. *Tina G. Santos*

Crackdown on meter thieves

UTILITIES concessionaire Manila Water recently filed criminal charges against 12 alleged members of a syndicate specializing in stealing water meters in Antipolo City and Cainta, Rizal. Caught redhanded by Antipolo City police were Jerald Bacares, Niko Legaspi, Ricky Nievas, Nino Santos, Jomar Bobier, Gilbert Gerona, Christopher Cristobal, Ronnel Casim, Christian Miniano, and Alvin Ramilo, all Antipolo residents. Also nabbed for violation of the antifencing law were Santos Astibe and Nancy Parua after a buy-bust operation at their hideout in Lot-102, Cluster F, BN 1, Antipolo, by SPO1 Victorino Madamba, PO2 Christopher Sarte, P/A Emma Negrito-Nagrampa, PO2 Rodel Pillejera, PO1 Dennis Penamante and PO1 Ritchie Mendoza, all members of Antipolo City's finest. All the suspects were arrested while in the act of stealing and selling 36 water meters by a joint team of *barangay tanod* and Antipolo City police following reports from concerned citizens about missing water meters over the past six months. Antipolo City police chief, Supt. Primitivo Talanquines Tabujara Jr. said they had been investigating and monitoring the activities of the syndicate which had been preying on water meters in the city center and surrounding neighborhoods over the past year.

HWAA! SORRY NAPO!

QC policeman dies in daring daylight slay

A QUEZON City policeman was gunned down in broad daylight by unidentified assailants yesterday. PO3 Salvador Gutierrez of the Anonas Police Station was sitting in front of a store at 509 Sunflower Street, Barangay Central, when two men went up to him, police said. One of the suspects then riddled the victim's body with bullets from a gun of an unknown type and caliber, according to a report by PO2 Jaime Jimeno and PO2 Joseph Madrid. The suspects later fled onboard a tricycle. Scene-of-the-crime operatives recovered several spent shells in the area. Gutierrez still had his .45 caliber pistol in its holster when responding police arrived. Although there were eyewitnesses, no one was willing to talk to the police, said P/Supt Procopio Lipana, chief of the Quezon City Police District criminal investigation division. He said he suspected Gutierrez's killing could be linked to the flourishing drug trade in the area, a squatter colony. QCPD director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr. said he had instructed his men to investigate the victim's last case for possible clues. *DJ Yap*

5 kidnap suspects killed in raid

By Luige A. del Puerto and Nancy C. Carvajal

A DAY AFTER KIDNAPPERS snatched a 41-year-old junk shop owner in Novaliches, Quezon City, on Friday, they made two phone calls to his family. But the kidnappers probably had no inkling that they had reached a phone that had a caller ID. This made it easier for the police to trace the abductors to a house in Caloocan City on Saturday.

"That was how the Presidential Anti-Response and Emergency (Pacer) traced the kidnappers," said a Pacer officer hours after police rescued Willy Chua and killed five of his alleged captors. On the same day, an informant called Pacer to report unusual activities in Barangay Urduja located north of the city.

Men and cars had been seen entering and leaving a newly rented house at Merry Homes Subdivision usually at night, according to the informant. Neighbors also told police they had noticed that the house on Lot 44 at the corner of Gold and Sapphire Streets was practically bare, and its tenants, "evasive." Knowing they had an ongoing case of kidnapping, the police immediately placed the area under surveillance, and confirmed that Chua was held in a room inside the house.

All throughout the operation, the primary consideration had been to get the victim alive, according to Pacer chief Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon. The kidnappers initially demanded P20 million, but no ransom was paid. A police statement said there was a 15-minute shootout between the alleged kidnappers and Pacer operatives, led by police superintendents Ronald Oliver and Allan Nobleza. When the smoke cleared, all five suspects were slumped on the floor, dead.

Police later identified two of the suspects as Ronnie Cabal and Antonio Cabal, alleged members of a Waray-Ilonggo gang that operated mainly in Central and Southern Luzon and in Metro Manila. The three other suspects have yet to be identified. Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes later commended the community for providing information that led to Chua's rescue.

KIDNAP victim Willy Chua (center) with Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes (left) and Police Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon after his dramatic rescue. JOAN BONDOC

Mission gives people reason to smile

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ONLY RECENTLY, TEN-MONTH-OLD Mohammad Alinor showed he was happy through his eyes.

But the baby boy, born with a cleft lip and palate, may soon be able to smile and even grin widely. He was among those who lined up yesterday for surgeries performed by Operation Smile, a 23-year-old international medical mission giving free operations around the country to those with facial deformities.

"We had been looking for sponsors to help us pay for his operation because we couldn't afford it. Then, our local social welfare office told us about this," said the boy's mother, Norah Alinor.

From their home in Maharlika Village, Taguig, Alinor and baby Mohammad went yesterday to the Ospital ng Makati Acute Care Center (ACC) on Malugay Street in Bel-Air, where Operation Smile began a week-long screening of patients.

Doctors evaluated the conditions and surgical requirements of more than 80 patients who showed up yesterday.

United States-based Operation Smile's Makati mission aims to operate on some 150 patients Oct. 17-21.

Organizers said at least six pairs of volunteer plastic surgeons and anesthesiologists, together with pediatricians, nurses, dentists, and speech therapists would be attending to patients.

"The benefits of this operation were three-pronged. There's the functional benefit, because the operation would help in speech development. There's the aesthetic benefit and, of course, the psychological benefit, because those with cleft lip or palate are often teased by others," said Dr. Perry Ishmael Peralta, ACC administrator.

"It's a highly correctable defect, but some patients could not afford the cost of an operation," said the doctor, also clinical director of the Makati Emergency Medical Services System.

The ACC, an urgent care facility of the local government hospital, is lending its operating rooms, facilities, and recovery rooms to organizers of the project.

Operation Smile, which has treated more than 10,000 children and young adults in the Philippines, estimates that cases of cleft lip or cleft palate occur once in every 500 births in the country. The minimum cost of reconstructive surgery is around P60,000.

In the case of baby Mohammad, Alinor said doctors told them the surgery would cost P100,000. Norah said she and her husband, Alexander, earned an average of P200 a day selling costume jewelry on Taguig's sidewalks.

CHASE Pagente, Joni Gonzales, Justine Bestos, and Froilan Javier are shown with their mothers before the operation. REM ZAMORA

'LLDA's stand on Arroceros building a case of meddling'

By Tina G. Santos

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

This was the advice of Manila deputy mayor Don Bagatsing to Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) general manager Casimiro Ynares III, who asked the city government to stop the construction of a teachers' building inside the controversial Arroceros Forest Park. "He should stop meddling with the affairs of the city. He should instead eradicate janitor fish in Laguna Lake and redistribute fish pens back to the poor fishermen," Bagatsing said.

Ynares earlier said the certificate of non-coverage (CNC) the LLDA issued in June used by the city government as basis for proceeding with the construction of the project, was technically not yet in effect. He added that representatives of the Manila local government had not even claimed and signed the CNC and LLDA clearance. The LLDA has authority over the project because the park is part of the Laguna watershed. But this, too, was contested by Bagatsing saying the "Arroceros Park is a Manila titled property."

Sought for comment, Ynares said: "Following his line of argument, this is not an issue of ownership. Developments need to secure permits to ensure that they do not damage the environment."

Bagatsing, as deputy mayor, handles, on behalf of the mayor, finances and field operations, according to a city official who refused to be identified. "The position is only a designation. He's more of a consultant," the official said, adding that Bagatsing's duties does not replace that of the vice mayor's. A Makati government official said it had no deputy mayor, "but consultant, yes." As far as I know, there has never been a deputy mayor in Quezon City, although there have been acting mayors," said city public affairs and information services office (Paiso) director Greg Bañacia. *With Blanche Rivera, Tarra Quismundo and DJ Yap*

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The Coast Guard lecher

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

LAST SATURDAY, THIS CORNER talked in passing about a Coast Guard officer who did the unthinkable to a female supplier who went to his office to follow up a contract with the agency.

"Unthinkable" because the Coast Guard officer is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy. He is expected to be an officer and a gentleman in dealing with women.

Besides, he was not supposed to make a mess in his own backyard since the woman transacts business with the Coast Guard.

Suppliers and contractors are considered part and parcel of the organization even if they're civilians because they help keep the agency afloat (no pun intended).

What did the Coast Guard officer do again?

According to the female supplier, she went to the officer's office to follow up a contract.

After talking with the official about the cost of the "SOP" (euphemism for bribe) should the contract be signed, the supplier said the officer unzipped his fly.

She said he chased her around the room and telling her to perform sexual acts on him.

She said he only stopped after she threatened to shout.

Calling on Vice Adm. Art Gosingan, Coast Guard commandant, to investigate not only the lecherous action of the official but also his activities allegedly involving graft when he talked about how much he would receive from the supplier.

Admiral Gosingan, please clean up your agency if the report is true.

* * *

Judge Ma. Belen R. Liban of the Malolos, Bulacan Regional Trial Court has inhibited herself from hearing a rape case involving a completely disabled man, Ronald "Jeff" Quesada.

This corner has gone down hard on the good judge for delaying the resolution of the case.

My contention is that it was highly impossible for Jeff to have committed rape.

The man could not even go to the toilet without being bodily carried and placed on the toilet bowl.

For reasons only she knows, she did not act on a petition for bail for Jeff.

* * *

If Happy Ongpauco-Rivera is to be believed, actress and Quezon City Councilor Aiko Melendez acted like a spoiled brat in an incident in a high-end bar in Makati.

Rivera was the woman involved in a quarrel with Melendez that got a lot of media hype.

The actress has been going around TV and radio stations and tabloids denouncing Rivera and her companions for allegedly picking a fight with her.

Yesterday during a news conference, it was Rivera's turn to denounce Melendez.

She said the actress' behavior was unbecoming for a public official.

Rivera said Melendez started the quarrel when she elbowed her while passing by her table.

Rivera said her husband used to date Melendez before they got married.

At the height of their heated exchange, Rivera quoted Melendez as saying, "*P$#@%^ mo, pangit ka, kung maganda ka dapat artista ka na* (You're ugly, if you were beautiful you should have been an actress)."

Rivera is the daughter of former actress Liberty Ilagan and restaurateur Rod Ongpauco.

I know both her parents.

How could she be ugly if she's the offspring of a handsome couple?

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NBP dismisses suspicions of rubout in Munti jailbreak

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IN WHAT SEEMED TO BE A REPLAY OF a jailbreak in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City, inmates tried to escape from the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa City, early Sunday morning when prison guards were serving breakfast to the 86 detainees at Building 14.

At around 6 a.m., while prison guard Eric Pacturayan was checking the inmates' breakfast at the keeper's area, two inmates identified as Damaso Job and Julio Deloritos suddenly attacked him.

The keeper's area is separated from the detention cells by a sunning area and a steel fence. Before an inmate can escape from the jail, he has to pass through three padlocked gates.

Job seized Pacturayan's M-16 rifle while Deloritos gagged and punched the guard. The guard fought back and was bruised and wounded as a result of the incident.

Juan Lim, also on duty that morning, was restrained by inmates Rolando Paraiso and Edgar Macarse who had an improvised knife.

"I was trapped," Lim said. Macarse's weapon was a spoon turned into a knife.

Job was the first to escape from the building, followed by Deloritos then the other two, Lim recalled.

Deloritos and Paraiso were the official "rancheros" or food servers of Building 14, allowing them access to the keeper's area.

Lim said they were not able to keep an eye on the inmates so that Job and Macarse were able to sneak out, together with Deloritos and Paraiso. *"Hindi namin nabantayan maigi. May sumalising dalawa,"* Lim said.(We were not able to keep a tight watch so two inmates were able to sneak out)

Pacturayan added they were caught off guard because they trusted the two "rancheros." In the gun battle that followed the escape attempt, Macarse, Paraiso and Deloritos were killed immediately. Job was arrested but was able to break free. He was killed after a four-hour pursuit.

NBP Supt. Juanito Leopando, in an interview with reporters yesterday, dismissed speculations that Job was "rubbed out." He said the escapee was killed when he tried to resist arrest.

Security officer Alfredo Devaras was seriously wounded during the pursuit, according to Leopando. Devaras is confined at the Muntinlupa Medical Center.

Leopando also brushed aside allegations that the breakout resulted from the "inhumane treatment" of inmates at Building 14.

A document obtained by the INQUIRER showed that Deloritos was one of 72 inmates who wrote to Commission on Human Rights Director Gilbert Boiser requesting "just and humane treatment" and the resumption of conjugal visits.

The inmates also complained about the three-layered screen that separated them from their families and relatives when they visited. An INQUIRER source said the building was crowded, limiting the movement of inmates and leaving them with no privacy.

But Leopando said the building was one of the NBP's good areas with such amenities as a basketball court, a billiard hall and a ping-pong table.

He said it was not possible that boredom and the demand for conjugal visits caused the breakout. "A conjugal visit is not a right but a privilege given to responsible inmates," he reiterated.

Leopando added that the NBP would conduct an investigation on the botched jailbreak.

Teen escapes from abductors

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL WHO WAS ALLEGEDLY detained by a dentist and raped by a neighbor escaped with the help of another minor.

Grace, not her real name, said in her affidavit that she called out to a boy playing outside the room to remove the padlock so she could get out.

She identified their neighbor Roderick Raclan as the one who had raped her inside the dental clinic of Rodel Bautista at dawn on Oct. 8.

Raclan was arrested late Sunday evening on Malaya St. in Caloocan City. Bautista is still at large.

Police Senior Insp. Rio Gatocilo said they were assisted by the Northern Police District Special Weapons and Tactics Unit in arresting Raclan, who was reported to be armed and dangerous.

"We have unconfirmed reports that he killed three people but their relatives were too scared to complain," the police officer said.

The police officer said a charge of abduction with rape would be filed against the suspects.

After being raped by Raclan, the dentist forced her to have her tooth cavity filled.

Later on, she said, she was moved to another place by two men summoned by Raclan.

The teenager said one of the men simply laughed when she said she would report the incident to authorities.

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASEBALL: MLB - ALDS Game 5, Yankees vs Angels; 8 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m. – It's win or go home as New York tangles with LA in this do-or-die affair.
GOLF: LPGA Long Drugs Challenge; 4 p.m.; ESPN – See J-Ro in action.
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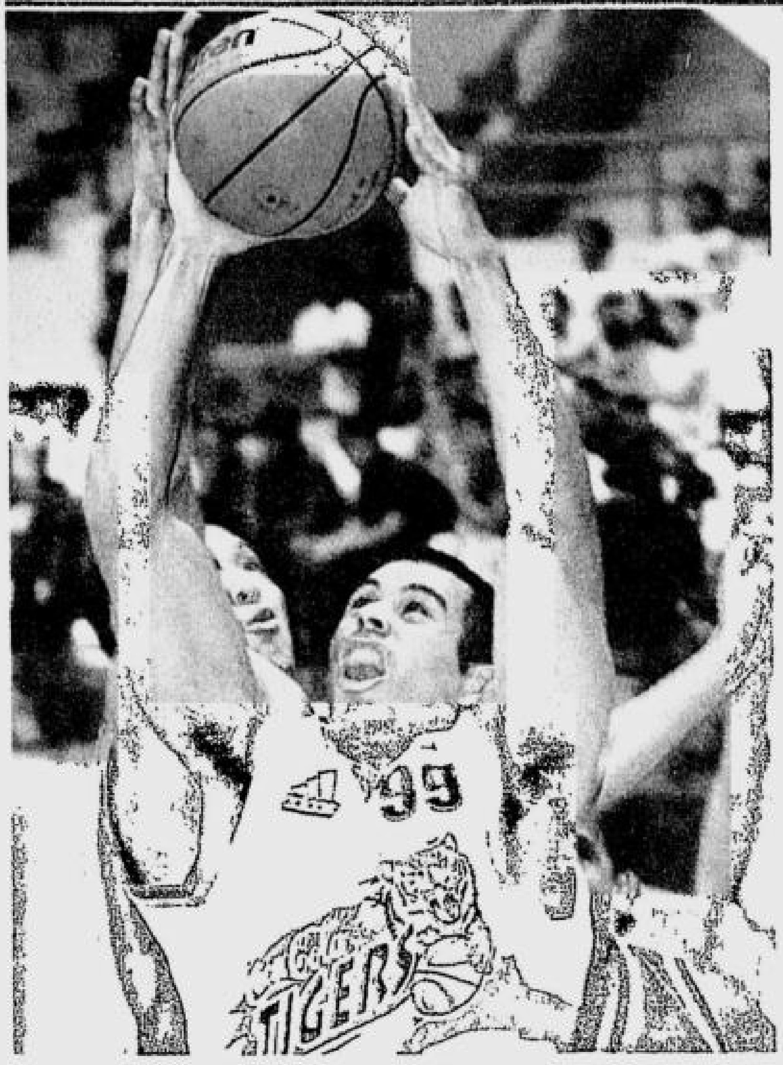
Malacañang clears Hatfield's comeback



RUDY Hatfield needs only to produce a few more documents. PDI PHOTO

By June Navarro

MALACAÑANG HAS CLEARED the way for Rudy Hatfield to return to the Philippine Basketball Association, but he has a long way to go to reclaim his old place on the Coca-Coca Tigers' roster.

Commissioner Noli Eala yesterday said a presidential directive overturning the adverse ruling of the Department of Justice on the citizenship of Hatfield has effectively lifted the PBA's ban on the Coca-Cola mainstay.

"Technically speaking, Rudy has already been reinstated," said Eala after receiving a copy of the memo from the presidential management staff signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Still, Eala said Hatfield is required to come up with the requirements set by the league on foreign-born players before he could strut his wares again for the Tigers.

"If he submits the additional documents required by the PBA, then Rudy can suit up for the Tigers in no time," said Eala.

Hatfield was one of six foreign-bred players whom the DOJ ordered deported last year for allegedly falsifying their citizenship papers so they could play in the PBA, which later banned them from the league as well.

Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text has since been reinstated through a court order that re-established his claim to Filipino citizenship, while Red Bull's Mick Pennisi and Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra are still working on ways to reverse the DOJ decision.

Jon Ordonio of Red Bull had already accepted his fate and returned to the United States, while teammate Davonn Harp went home to Columbus, Ohio, and has been out of touch since then.

In the wake of the DOJ action on the six, the league came up with a resolution requiring the other foreign-born players to submit additional citizenship documents.

Except for Eric Menk of Barangay Ginebra, the other foreign-born players have since complied with the new board ruling.

Hatfield has to present an authenticated birth certificate issued by the National Statistics Office or an equivalent document, birth certificates and marriage contract of his parents, among others.

Hatfield, whose Filipino mother is a US immigrant, must also show his parent's naturalization papers and the affidavits of at least three individuals attesting his Filipino roots.

Coca-Cola coach Binky Favis said Hatfield has been religiously attending the Tigers' practices.

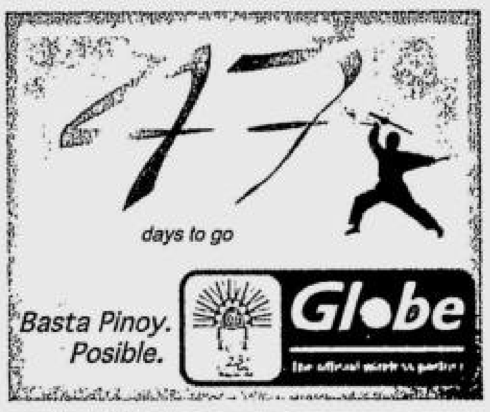
Meanwhile, Eala said gate attendance has increased 100 percent, four play dates into the season, compared to last year's average. While an average of 4,000 fans per play date watched the games last season, about 9,500 paying fans attended each play date of the new season.

Peping smiles the blues away

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE PRESident Jose "Peping" Cojuangco knows when to walk away from an interview. Even though he was in high spirits after securing a P50 million package from the Lucio Tan Group of Companies, he refused to comment on the latest development in basketball, giving reporters yesterday just a smile before politely turning his back on a reporter's querry. Basketball's status is uncertain in the SEA Games this year with the country still suspended by the international basketball federation (Fiba).

* * *

CAMBODIA has certainly gone a long way, as far as participation in the SEA Games is concerned. The last time the Philippines hosted the SEAG in 1991, Cambodia fielded a solitary athlete: a 100-meter track sprinter. After 14 years, that number will change to 121 athletes, mostly in combat events. They will be accompanied by 29 coaches and officials for the 23rd Games. *Musong R. Castillo*



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Drama as Michele snares Karter of Year title again

LEE Bumgarner hugs his champion daughter Michele (left) and son Mark, a podium finisher, after the stunning final race.

CARMONA, CAVITE—PUSHED to the limit, Michele Bumgarner drove to victory in two of the last three races of the 2005 Shell Superkarting Series at the Carmona Circuit over the weekend and regained the Karter of the Year title from top rival Matteo Guidicelli in an emotion-packed finale to the season.

Bumgarner went into the last two races needing to score a golden double in her bid to deny Guidicelli's repeat bid for the crown. She didn't disappoint her backers as the pretty 16-year-old decisively ruled both races to top the Intercon Class A division by just six points.

Guidicelli easily took pole position in Saturday morning's qualifying race and breezed his way to victory in the first race later in the day. But he fell prey to misfortunes in Sunday's last two races.

Bumgarner, who is backed by Samsung, Accel, Powerade, Malaysia Airlines, Oakley, Salon Prive, Gold's Gym and Bridgestone Karting Tires, ruled the 15-lap second race at the 1.070-kilometer Carmona Circuit in 10:34.583, relegating Guidicelli to second. She repeated the feat in the 20-lap third race, clocking 14:34.777.

"I was nervous at the start because I was a bit pressured when Matteo won the first race by a mile," said Bumgarner, who clinched the title with 396.5 points.

"I thought there was something wrong with the kart because I was expecting a close race in the battle for pole.

"This victory is for all the supporters and sponsors who had been with us through the years," added Bumgarner,

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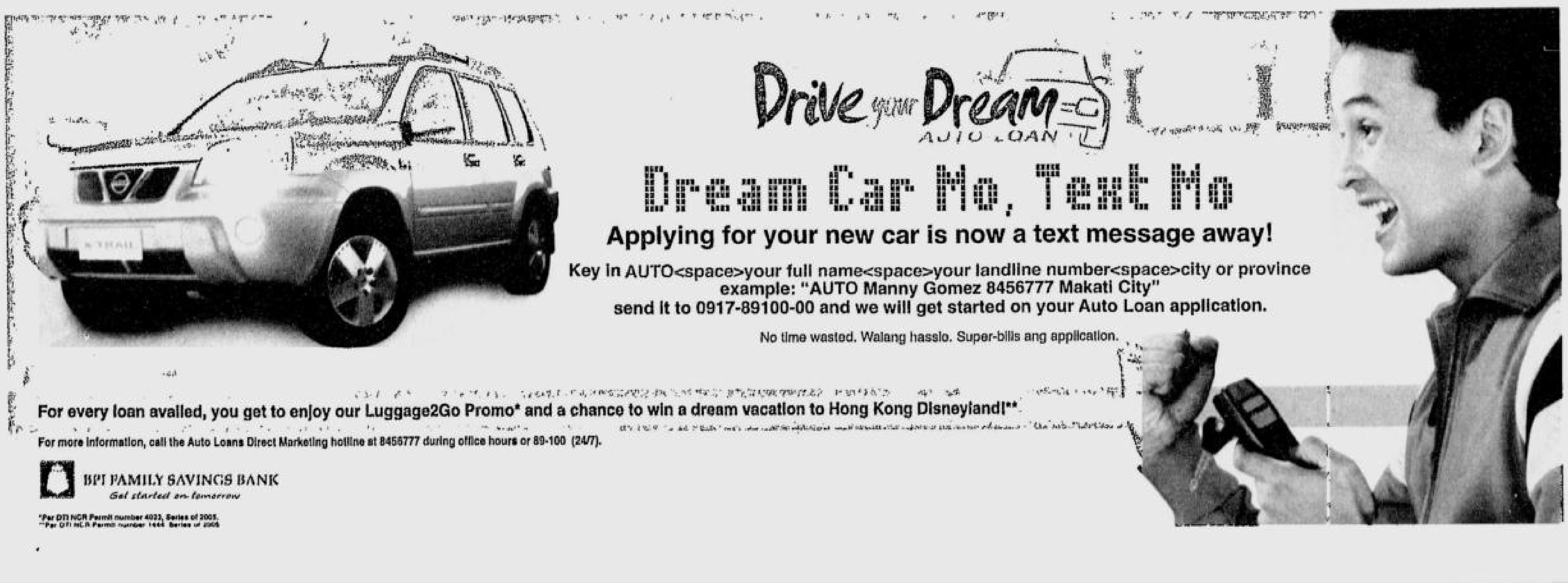

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INVITATIONAL VOLLEYBALL: Cherry Rose Macatangay (center) and Monica Aleta of the Philippines block Pleumjit Thinkaow of Thailand during the Shakey's invitational volleyball championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Thailand won the event. JESS YUSON

Suarez, Del Rosario pace WC finalists

THREE FORMER WORLD CHAMPIONS AND Asia's leading lady pintoppler made it to the final eight of the 2005 Bowling World Cup national men's and ladies' finals which unwrap today at SM Megamall Center along Edsa.

Four-time World Cup titlist Paeng Nepomuceno and his fellow champs CJ Suarez and Bong Coo and many-time Asian Bowling Tour leg winner Liza del Rosario head the small field which figures in best-of-three, head-to-head matches starting at 11 this morning.

Del Rosario showed the way among the remaining lady contenders with a 20-game total of 4179 pinfalls, while Suarez topped the men's group with a 24-game series of 5568.

Nepomuceno finished third among the men with 5411 while Coo, back on the lanes after along layoff, came in fifth at 3974.

Busan Asian Games gold medalist RJ Bautista banked on a perfect game and a 286 to land behind Suarez at 5429.

Others who stayed in the hunt for the national title and the right to carry the Philippine colors in the World Cup international finals set Nov. 13-20 in Ljubjlana, Slovenia, are Irene Benitez (4070), Jojo Cañare (4031), Apple Posadas (3976), Ellen Ramos (3936), Elaine Florencio (3935), Jaymee Bautista (3774), Chester King (5392), Joonee Gatchalian (5389), JC Tupaz (5356), Benny Dytoc (5305), and Tyrone Ongpauco (5162).

Only Del Rosario, Benitez and Cañare managed to average 200 each last Sunday at Starmall with 10-game scores of 2039, 2077 and 2056, respectively, among the lady survivors.

Suarez and Gatchalian proved to be the hottest among the male aspirants with 2843 and 2805, respectively, in 12 games.

Suarez started with a 245 and followed this with 258, 248, 202, 257, 224, 289, 258, 218, 165, 244 and 235.

Despite his 300 and 286, Bautista submitted only the day's third best output of 2725.

Nepomuceno showed flashes of his old deadly form by rolling big games of 256 (twice), 246, 244, 235, 233 and 226.

Del Rosario and King won last year's national crown.

Cebu five, Ozamiz start South best-of-3

MINGLANILLA, CEBU—DEFENDING NATIONAL champion Tribu Sugbu faces Ozamiz Cotta today as they start their best-of-three series for the Southern Conference crown in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the sports center here.

PBL veterans Jojo Tangkay and JR "Baby Shaq" Quiñahan will reinforce Tribu in the 6 p.m. contest.

Tangkay was a member of last year's team which bagged the Southern—and eventually—the national titles. He will play for the team of businessmen Lito Gillamac and Mario King for the first time today.

The other holdovers are Ronald Bucao, Marvin Mercado and Doroteo Almacin.

"If you noticed, I don't have a regular starting five," said Tribu coach Al Solis. "My players see action for at least 10 minutes each."

Backing up Tangkay are Boyet Guerrero and Chris Ferraren.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta will bank on MVP candidate Christian Nicdao, Billy Bansil, Rulof Liangco, Elbert Alberto, Melfred Sampilo, Dennis Cabigkis, Milver Libatog and Orly Alvarado.

The Southern titlist will meet Cavite in the finals of the tournament.

SEAG PACKAGE

Tan Group gives ₱50M to Games

By Musong R. Castillo

SEAG SPONSOR: Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee president Jose Cojuangco and Domingo Chua, managing director of Himmel Industries share a light moment after the Lucio Tan Group of Companies formalized its assistance to the SEAG at the Century Park Sheraton hotel yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

THE LUCIO TAN GROUP OF COMPANIES FORMALLY BECAME a vital partner in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday, signing a P50 million package with the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee (Philsoc) that includes three official titles.

"We want to help make it all happen," said Domingo Chua, managing director of Himmel Industries for the Lucio Tan Group, who signed the contract with Philsoc CEO Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

"Gumaganda nang gumaganda (the situation is improving)," said Cojuangco, when asked of the official status on the target of P1.2 billion for the Games.

"But let us not put emphasis on how much the total is," the former Tarlac representative said.

"Filipinos come to the rescue every time," Cojuangco told the gathering at the Century Park Hotel after the official signing of the sponsorship. "But our (Philsoc) business with you is not done yet. Hihingi kami ng dagdag (we will ask for more)."

With 47 days left before the Games open on Nov. 27, it is highly unlikely that the Philsoc could ask the Tan group for P50 million more to become a Gold sponsor.

The package signed by the Tan group gave Century Park, Summit Mineral and Philippine Airlines the titles of official residence, mineral water and carrier, respectively.

Officials of the SEAG International Federation will be housed at the Century Park, water requirements of the more than 10,000 athletes and officials will be taken care of Summit Mineral, while PAL will provide for more than 300 international tickets to VIPs as well as all domestic travel service requirements from Manila to Bacolod and Cebu.

Globe Telecoms owns the first Gold package and the Philsoc had said that at least two more, the Tan group and PLDT, are ready to sign the next two P100 million sponsorships.

Bumgarner snares . . .

From page A17

who also won the 2003 crown.

Bumgarner's victory in the second race set the stage for a final showdown with Guidicelli, the lead driver of the Cebu Racing Group.

Race marshals flagged off the competitors despite signals coming from Guidicelli that he was having problems with his kart. This earned the ire of the Cebu-based driver's father, Gianluca.

Guidicelli eventually managed to race but stopped after 17 laps, his bid dashed.

Michele's younger brother, Mark, who is backed by Powerade and Oakley, finished third and second, respectively, in the last two races and wound up fourth in the overall standings with 205.5 points.

Indy Villalon finished third overall with 266 points, while Marlon Stockinger was fifth with 118 and Arvin Drueco sixth with 74.

Sharing the spotlight were Paolo Eslao who ruled the KT Light class and Novice Karter of the Year title with 492 points. Jeff Alvarez bagged the Cadet Karter of the Year crown with 334 points while John Vencer Suba copped the Cadet 60 Novice crown with 386 points.

Asistio Samsung Tour frontrunner by 2

JUNGOLFER TONTON ASISTIO scored a solid two-under-par 70 yesterday to open a two-stroke lead over Michael Bibat at the start of the fourth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Couples course of the Riviera Golf Club in Silang, Cavite.

Foiled by Bibat in the Baguio leg of the course-hopping series last month, the 16-year-old Asistio set in motion another title bid with back-to-back birdies from No. 15 that highlighted his nines of 35-35.

Bibat, already assured of a stint in the finals of this event organized by Professional Sports Management Group, Inc. headed by Boy Blue Ocampo, with his triumph at Camp John Hay, had three birdies and as many bogeys for an even-par 72.

Jay Bayron, a former winner and member of the national pool preparing for next month's Southeast Asian Games here, stood another two strokes behind with a 74, fighting back from a 40 going out.

A big letdown was defending national champion Kim Chang-hoi, who never recovered from an 8 on the par-4 No. 1 and finished with an 82.

Kim, the Korean expatriate who humbled the cream of the local crop last year, is eyeing a big finish here with most of the members of the RP pool opting to skip the event sponsored by KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Sun Bolt, C-Lium Fiber, Rudy Project, Microtel and Solar Sports Plus.

The four-day event is also backed by media partners Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee with Philippine Airlines as official carrier.

Ronnie Torrecampo and Anthony Fernando carded 76s while former RP Amateur champion Jun Bernis was a stroke behind. Veteran campaigner Tommy Manotoc shot a 78.

SPORTSWATCH

BEACH VOLLEY: Jeneve Lanuevo of the PATTS gets ready to return a serve in the first Samsung Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge at the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig City recently. Sixteen teams from various schools are vying in the event, led by College of St. Benilde with five teams. The matches will be shown every Sunday at 3:30 p.m. on Channel 9.

RP's Campana rings bell in Japan

FILIPINO ROSELITO CAMPANA of the Marty Elorde Stable yesterday scored an important win in Japan, beating WBC No. 32 flyweight Hiroshi Nakano by a seventh-round technical decision in their scheduled 10-rounder in Zepp, Nagoya. Campana was virtually in command all throughout the fight before an accidental clash of heads opened a cut on the Filipino's head in the seventh round, according to Jojo Palacios, Campana's trainer. With the win, Campana, ranked OPBF No. 8 flyweight and GAB No. 6, is expected to move up in the rankings next month.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Top untitled players vying in GTC chess

THE COUNTRY'S TOP UNTITLED PLAYERS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART in the 2nd GTC Non-Masters Chess Tournament slated Oct. 22 on the second floor of the Starmall Activity Center Las Piñas City and on Nov. 19 at the Metropolis Alabang. The tournament, presented by the Gemini Talents Corp., has four categories—Open (for untitled players) and kiddies (for ages 8, 12, 15 and 19 under). GTC is the same organizer of the Non-Master Chess tournament hosted by Cafe Lupe Restaurant. For inquiries, call 471-3417 or 0920-9534559.

90 fights in Cainta Daytime derby today

TOP-RATED COCKERS AND BREEDERS FROM METRO MANILA SET OUT AS the favorites in the Daytime 5-Stag Derby which gets under way today at the Cainta Coliseum with more than 90 fights. The first fight is set at 3 p.m. Derby hosts and coliseum operators Sam Mendoza, Beng Calivoso and Aba Badiola have invited their fellow members in the National Cockers Association (NCA) and the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) as well as leading breeders from Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Pangasinan, Zambales and Tarlac to vie for the total cash prize of P500,000. For inquiries, call 655-3334 or 0918-2620338.

Alta Vista grabs early lead in Sta. Lucia golf

CEBU—ALTA VISTA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB'S expected breakaway didn't happen, but the hosts still grabbed the overall lead after its main squad ruled Group I in the opening leg of the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour 2005 here on Sunday.

Ramontito Garcia and Joseph Stevens each fired 53 points and Carl Almario added 51 as Alta Vista 1 posted 157 for the day and a 36-hole total of 310, beating Eagle Ridge (139-285) by a whopping 25 points. Edito Tirol, the fourth member of the squad, didn't count with his 48.

The victory was worth 15 points in the overall tally and, counting its runner-up finishes in the two other groups worth 12 points each, Alta Vista finished with 39 for the leg.

All told Alta Vista will head to next month's Mindanao leg six points clear of Palos Verdes which is defending the Sta. Lucia Cup.

Palos Verdes won Group 2 through the quartet of Andrew Bautista, Jessie Tan, Eduardo Wee and Ronald Galicia, who scored 127-253 to tie Alta Vista and then took the leg title via a countback.

The Eagle Ridge squad of Michael Tan, Francis Villafuerte and Elpidio Ong amassed 105 points for 216 to bag the Group III title by 12 over another Alta Vista squad and put the former champs in third place in the overall standings with 29.

Royale Tagaytay was in fourth with 20, Orchard and Summit Point were tied for fifth with 16 and Caliraya Springs and Lakewood had 8 each.

CHAMPS FIVE TIMES OVER: Member, team officials led by coach Loreto Tolentino and University of Manila EVP Dr. Ernesto delos Santos, as well as supporters of the UM Hawks celebrate the team's fifth straight crown after beating the STI Olympians in the title game, 81-74, recently in the 5th Naascu basketball tourney at the EAC Gym in Manila. With them is league president Dr. Jay Adalem.

Handlebar, Pera Padala 1-2

HANDLEBAR AND PERA PADALA POSTED kept their 1-2 spots in the fall season conference of the Manila slo-pitch softball League (MSSL) at the Manila Polo Club and Seafront grounds.

Handlebar, made up of working expatriates, totes a 5-1 win-loss record, its only loss coming at the hands of spring conference champion Meralco.

Pera Padala, a sister team of defending fall season conference champion Cebuana Lhuillier, totes a 6-2 slate, beating Team USA, Meralco, A & IS and winning twice over BYOB (Bring Your Own Beer). It split its games against Cebuana Lhuillier and lost to Handlebar.

Meralco comes next with 5-2 record, followed by Cabuana Lhuillier, the country's top club team with its string of international titles, at 4-2.

The Cebuana Lhuillier team is led by Asaphil slo-pitch commissioner Jean Henri Lhuillier.

BYOB, made up of Ateneo alumni, is in fifth place with a 3-4 record, followed by Team USA and the Bulldogs with similar 2-4 slates.

Southwoods eyes Asian Ladies Team repeat

MANILA SOUTHWOODS GUNS for a repeat of its runaway victory in Group 1 last year in the 3rd Asian Ladies Team championship slated on Oct. 17-20 at the Camp John Hay Golf Club in Baguio City.

Tracy Locsin is also expected to return to defend the Group I individual crown she won to complete a double victory for Southwoods in the 54-hole championship.

Smart Communications is the presenter of the event with CJH Golf Club, CJH Development Corporation, CJH Manor Hotel and Le Chef as the other sponsors.

Locsin is expected to encounter rough sailing in her bid for a repeat win as the rest of the national pool have also been invited to bolster the cause of the other competing clubs.

Already in the roster are several teams from Camp John Hay, Manila Southwoods, Baguio Country Club, Riviera Golf Club and Microtel.

Confirmations still being awaited by the organizing Club Leisure Management Corp. are those from Forest Hills, which topped Group 2 last year by a big margin over Valley, and Philippine Navy, which won over Baguio CC for the Group 3 plum.

Maret Salivio and Raquel Banawa join Locsin in the list of the defending individual champ as winners of Groups 2 and 3, respectively.

TWO FOR THE ROAD: Cresenciano Sabal and Jho-an Banayag lift their trophies after being crowned King and Queen of the 29th National Milo Marathon Sunday at the Quirino Grandstand. Sabal set a new Milo Marathon record with his time of 2:21:33 while first-time winner Banayag clocked 2:59:57. Flanking them are (left to right) national race director Rudy Biscocho, DepEd physical education and special events chief Noemi Bellosillo, Milo brand manager Michelle Calo and Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong.

That's not how you're supposed to win–Tiger

WOODS reacts as Daly misses a short par putt on the second hole of their sudden-death playoff AP

SAN FRANCISCO—THROUGHOUT his career, world number one Tiger Woods has made it clear he is only interested in one thing on the golf course—winning.

However, Woods appeared to gain no particular pleasure from victory on Sunday, claiming his fourth WGC American Express Championship title on the second playoff hole when John Daly missed a routine three-foot putt.

A ruthless competitor not beyond punctuating his victories with a celebratory fist pump in front of his vanquished rivals, Woods bowed his head, covered his eyes and was almost apologetic accepting the $1.3 million winner's cheque.

"It just felt so bad," said Woods, following his second playoff win of the season, having beaten Chris DiMarco in extra holes at the US Masters in April.

"That's not how you're supposed to win a golf tournament.

"We're battling, and JD played beautifully all week and it shouldn't end like that.

"When he missed the putt, I just felt so bad because he was up there every day. And to put yourself on top of that board, it's a lot of work."

Woods seldom displays any form of compassion on the golf course and it is that single-minded focus that has earned him 46 career PGA Tour wins, including 10 major titles.

By contrast, Daly—the big-hitting, chain-smoking, chicken-wing loving, fan favorite—sometimes plays as if his mind is on anything but golf.

It is those flaws that have made him one of the most popular sporting personalities in America and helped provide the perfect pairing for a riveting afternoon as two of the biggest draws on the PGA Tour dueled for supremacy at a sun-drenched Harding Park golf course.

"JD brings huge galleries everywhere he goes," Woods added.

As disappointed as Daly was, the massive galleries were equally letdown as the showdown that promised so much ended not with a bang but with a whimper. *Reuters*

Astros cop series in 18 innings

HOUSTON—THE HOUSTON Astros won the longest playoff game in major league history on Sunday, beating the Atlanta Braves 7-6 after 18 innings to clinch their second successive National League Division Series (NLDS).

Chris Burke cracked a solo homer off reliever Joey Devine to end a marathon contest which was equivalent to two full regulation games and to hand the Astros a 3-1 victory in the best-of-five series.

Brad Ausmus hit a home run off Braves closer Jeff Farnsworth to tie the game at 6-6 with two outs in the ninth frame.

Roger Clemens, the loser in Game Two in Atlanta, earned the win with three scoreless innings.

Houston, which began the season with a woeful 15-30 record before producing a storming finish to earn the wildcard slot in the playoffs, eliminated Atlanta in the NLDS for the second year in a row.

The Astros now face Central Division rival St. Louis in the National League Championship Series for the second straight season. *Reuters*

J-Ro ends up 11th; Perrot prevails

AUBURN, CALIFORNIA—Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines faltered with a 2-over-par 73 Sunday and wound up in a six-way tie for 11th place in the $1 million LPGA Longs Drugs Challenge won by Chile's Nicole Perrot.

After shooting earlier rounds of 71-66-67, Rosales managed only two birdies against the same number of bogeys and a double bogey in her 36-37 card that gave her a 277 total.

Rosales settled for a purse of $16,042 that boosted her to 30th place in the money ranking with total earnings of $392,790.

Perrot's even-par finishing round of 71 gave her a 72-hole total of 14-under 270 and a winner's check of $150,000 dollars. She became the 10th first-time winner on the tour this year.

In becoming the first woman from her country to capture an LPGA crown, Perrot finished one shot ahead of South Korean Han Hee-won, who closed with a 69 for 270.

Britain's Catriona Matthew (68) and Swedish veteran Liselotte Neumann (72) tied for third, four shots back.

Perrot, who had taken the lead on the strength of Saturday's 7-under 64, turned pro in 2002 and won two Futures Events last year.

Her best finish this season was a tie for fifth at Turtle Bay in her first tournament in February.

Han, who won last week's Office Depot Championship, was trying to become the first player on tour to capture consecutive titles this season.

"I tried hard," Han said. "My putts just weren't going in. I hit it pretty well. Nicole played really well." *AFP*

PERROT: First Chilean LPGA winner

Yanks force Game Five

NEW YORK—THE POWER-hitting New Yankees used some small ball to overtake the Los Angeles Angels 3-2 on Sunday, keeping their season alive by forcing a deciding Game Five in their American League Division Series.

On the brink of elimination and trailing 2-0, the Yanks scored one run in the sixth and two in the seventh—the go-ahead tally on a Derek Jeter chopper that travelled less than 90 feet—to level the best-of-five series at two games apiece.

Yankees relief ace Mariano Rivera was called on in the eighth inning to preserve the lead, and the Panamanian retired all six batters he faced for his 34th career post-season save. *Reuters*

Corrales wants another crack at Castillo after KO

LAS VEGAS—DIEGO CORRALES had barely picked himself off the canvas and plans were already under way for a third fight with Jose Luis Castillo.

In the ring Saturday night, Corrales' promoter asked his fighter if he wanted the fight right away or if he wanted to wait a few fights instead.

"Immediately," Corrales replied.

Corrales could have been excused if he wasn't thinking of fighting the Mexican again so soon. He had just been stopped in the fourth round by a vicious left hook that quickly finished off what had been expected to be a battle of attrition.

The punch made short work of a highly anticipated rematch of the classic first fight between the two boxers, a battle won by Corrales when he got off the canvas twice in the dramatic 10th round to stop Castillo.

There would be no dramatics for Corrales this time. Castillo never gave him a chance to continue fighting with a punch so devastating that Corrales crumpled to the canvas before getting up still in a daze as he was counted out by referee Joe Cortez.

As he landed the big left hook, Castillo immediately raised his arms in triumph.

"I knew he wasn't getting up," Castillo said. "I told everybody I was going to knock him out by the seventh round."

Corrales made no excuses for the loss, praising Castillo for landing a shot he didn't see. But his promoter and those around him complained bitterly that Castillo had an advantage because he never had to get down to the 135-pound lightweight limit like Corrales did.

Castillo weighed in at 138½ pounds (62.8 kilograms) on Friday but the fight went on anyway after negotiations between promoters. He weighed 147 at a special weigh-in Saturday, while Corrales was 149 the night of the fight.

"Making 135 (61.2) is very debilitating to your body," Corrales' trainer, Joe Goossen said. "I wish I would have known it a day or two earlier."

Corrales' promoter Gary Shaw said he shouldn't have let his fighter fight after Castillo missed the weight. But there was a lot at stake, including a $2 million payday for his fighter.

Putting is golf's most difficult stroke

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

TIGER WOODS WON AGAIN AND that's because of putting. No, it's not about Woods' putting, though, that I'm trying to point out.

But that's getting ahead of the story.

In all of the strokes in golf, putting looks the easiest to execute. But mind you, it's the most difficult part of golf. And, if you are not really a golfer, you start to wonder why I said that and you'll be truly justified putting up that stance.

Well, although it looks easy as seen by the naked eye, putting is the most difficult because of the enormity of its importance to the game of golf.

One putt can either make or break a golfer.

A tee shot is hard enough to execute.

But how about the iron shot? The approach? Chip? Pitch? Bunker shot? Or, the escape act from the woods?

The easiest stroke in golf is the killer shot of the game: the putt.

Tiger Woods' victory yesterday is proof to that anew.

No, as I said, it is not Woods' putting that ultimately made him the winner yesterday of the American Express Championship in San Francisco.

Essentially, the putting of John Daly made Woods the winner.

How's that again?

Well, it's like this.

Had John Daly not missed a putt less than five feet on 17, he would have been the winner instead of Tiger Woods. By one stroke.

As a result of that miss, Daly was tied for the lead with Woods.

They were still tied after 18, with Woods closing out with a 67 against Daly's 69, and both went into sudden-death.

In the sudden-death, putting hugged center stage again, courtesy anew of John Daly.

If you haven't seen their epic duel on TV, here's what happened as narrated by the sweet-swinging Windy Imperial to Jose Luis "Jose Lu" Romero Salas and me yesterday at the Manila Golf Club, venue of the highly successful Prestige Cup BMW Tournament (kudos to Maricar Parco!).

On 16, the second playoff hole, John Daly hit a fantastic lob shot from the woods into the green to elicit an electric roar from what Windy Imperial described as "a pro-Daly crowd."

Jose Lu, his deep-set eyes glued to Windy, could only nod his head.

"After all those troubles and miseries that John Daly had gone through-alcohol rehab and all-he should really have the heart and affection of the crowd," Jose Lu said.

But you know what happened next?

John Daly traveled from paradise to purgatory.

"Woefully, he three-putted," said Windy, his shoulders dropping as if he himself had lost a major tournament.

"I felt heart-broken, really," Windy said. "John Daly has been laboring that long to win again. Had he won, that would have been a big rebound, a huge comeback for the man who keeps pounding the Tour to score another victory to restore his career back to where it was some years back."

Putting did John Daly in. What a shame. The man drives 320, 340 yards that easily. Always, he is 5, 10, 15 yards longer than Tiger Woods.

Isn't it said that the player with a huge tee shot has the automatic advantage because he always makes the course smaller?

Well, yes, but if he putts as badly as John Daly, usually the Tour's longest from the tee box, he will most likely lose the big ones.

You survive one putting miscue, fine. But commit another one?

Unforgivable.

As Windy Imperial so graphically described it yesterday, "John Daly lost it twice to Tiger Woods."

You can say that again, Windy.

* * *

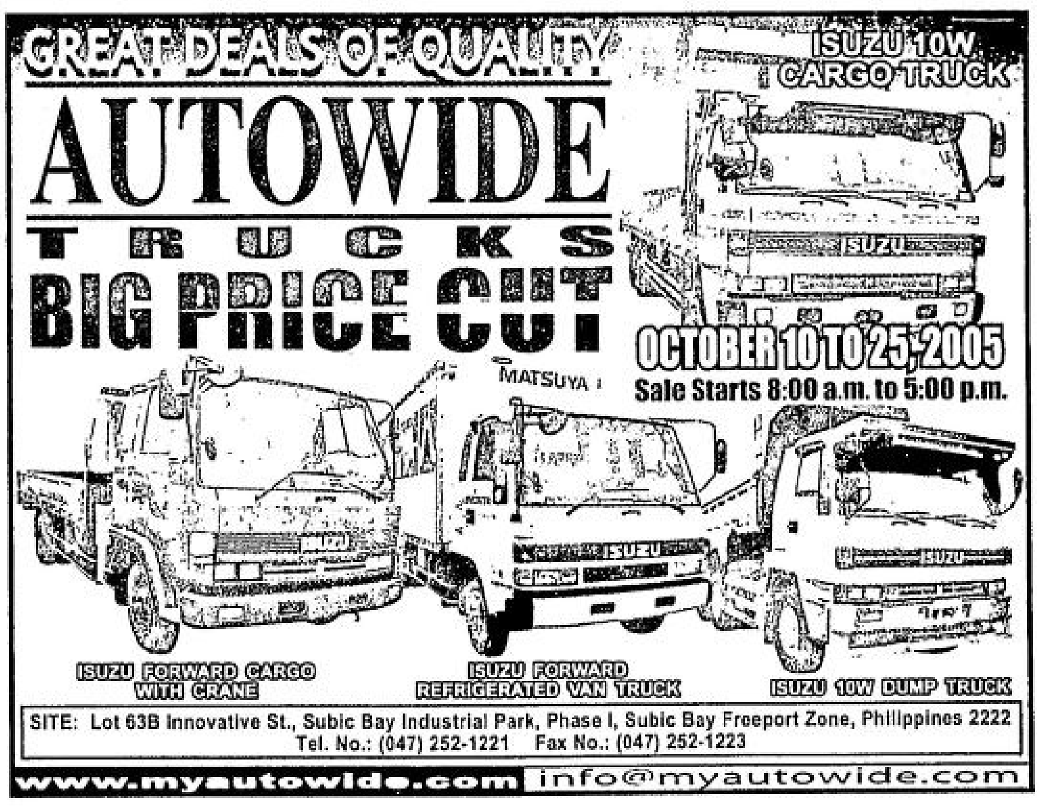
E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

POOL partnership: The Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa) and swim wear brand Arena, seal a four-year partnership to promote grassroots swimming development and support for the national team recently. Pasa president Mark Joseph (third from left) and Ronnie Colmenar (second from left), GM of Planet Sports, distributor of Arena in the country; Arena brand manager Eleanor Mempin (left) and Pasa secretary general Akiko Thomson sign the agreement.

Jainul advances

CAGAYAN DE ORO—FOR AL-KHADI JAINUL, playing tennis even in trouble-torn Santiago, Basilan, can be a simple approach to promote peace and unity.

"In our place, the people are happy when playing tennis, that's why we want to be in the courts everyday," said Jainul in Filipino after scoring a 7-6, 6-4 victory over Kurt Gerapusco in the unisex 10-under division here at the Nazareth Tennis Club Sunday to qualify for the National Finals of the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup. Jainul, a protégé of Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar, shared the limelight with Fritz Cris Verdad in the boys' 12-under; Noelito Pacana in the boys' 14-under; Cindy Gerapusco in the girls' 12-under; and Honey Mae Gilles in the girls' 14-under class.



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US, Canada top 10

LOS ANGELES—Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at United States and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., official box office trackers: 1.) "Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit," $16.1M; 2.) "Flightplan," $10.8M; 3.) "In Her Shoes," $10M; 4.) "Two for the Money," $8.4M; 5.) "The Gospel," $8M: 6.) "Tim Burton's Corpse Bride," $6.5M; 7.) "Waiting," $5.7M; 8.) "A History of Violence," $5.1M; 9.) "Serenity," $4.9M; 10.) "Into the Blue," $4.8M.

'She said . . .

From page A24

Then, she said, the actress "gave me dagger looks."

A heated confrontation ensued between the respective groups of Happy and Aiko.

While waiting for the police that the Ayala Center security called, Happy said, she approached Aiko to demand an explanation. The actress-politician allegedly cursed her instead, saying, "*Pangit ka, kung maganda ka dapat artista ka na* (You're ugly. If you looked any good, you'd be a movie star by now)."

Aiko, in interviews with "S-Files" and "The Buzz" last Sunday, insisted she was the victim in the incident. She said a friend of Happy's, Ronald Serrano, mashed her breasts. Colleagues from the Quezon City Council have pledged support for her.

Support

"I know her to be a righteous person and the present city council is honored to have her as one of our active and dynamic local legislators," Ariel Inton, councilor, said in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Happy is the daughter of former actors Liberty Ilagan and Rod Ongpauco, who own several brances of the Barrio Fiesta chain of restaurants; and the granddaughter of National Artist for Film Gerry de Leon.

Liberty's contemporary and close friend Amalia Fuentes, who showed up at yesterday's press con, pointed out that Aiko's grandfather, father and brother had all served time in prison. It will be recalled that Fuentes, whose real name is Amalia Muhlach, was very vocal about her disapproval years ago of Aiko's relationship with her nephew, actor Aga Muhlach.

For pals

Happy also filed cases of light threat against Aiko's police escort, PO3 Jun Rivera Alvarez, "for threatening us with a firearm tucked under his waist," and oral defamation against Aiko's boyfriend Martin Jickaine "for [hurling] invectives at us."

Citing two companions' moves to defend her in public, Happy said: "I feel it's my fault that my friends [Serrano and Alana Montelibano, who claimed Aiko pushed her chair inside the restaurant] have been dragged into this. I owe it to them to make sure the truth comes out."

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4	THE TRANSPORTER-2

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Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
2 (DOLBY)	INTO THE BLUE
3 (DOLBY)	DUBAI
4 (DOLBY)	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	INTO THE BLUE
2	40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
3	RESERVED
4	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
5	LAND OF THE DEAD

MARRETHA F
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	DUBAI
2	KAPIT BAHAY
3	THE DESCENT
4	RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	DUBAI
2	THE TRANSPORTER-2
3	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	DUBAI
2	THE BROTHERS GRIMM

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE CAVE
2	DUBAI
3 (DTS ES)	INTO THE BLUE
4	LAND OF THE DEAD

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	LAND OF THE DEAD
2	DUBAI
3 (DOLBY)	THE CAVE
4 (DTS)	INTO THE BLUE

Cine Nepo
(Daqupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	DUBAI
2	CINDERELLA MAN
3 (DOLBY)	THE CAVE
4 (DTS)	DUKES OF HAZZARD

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	DUBAI
2	DUKE OF HAZZARD

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
5	DUBAI

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5 (DOLBY)	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
6	DUBAI

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004

1 (DOLBY)	PLEASE CALL
2	

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BRAZEN WOMAN
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3	KAAWAY HANGANG HUKAY
4 (DTS)	TOTAL AIKEDO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE CROW-4
2	WAR EAGLE
3 (DTS)	DUBAI
4	AGOS
5	THE CAVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DARK WATER
2	THE CAVE
3	LONG WEEKEND
4	DUBAI

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	THE DECENT
2	SEX EDUCATION

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THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
CORPSE BRIDE 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	TRANSPORTER 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	PERFECT CATCH 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
UNDISCOVERED 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	LAND OF THE DEAD 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ DUBAI 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	❹ THE DESCENT 12:10 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30
❷ INTO THE BLUE 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	❺ THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 12.00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
❸ TRANSPORTER 2 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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Dennis Trillo 'flattered' that Miss International has an eye on him

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

MISS INTERNATIONAL PRECIOUS **Lara Quigaman** has been very vocal about wanting **Dennis Trillo** to be her leading man if and when she joins show biz. I cornered **Dennis** for a reaction. "I'm very flattered and proud, of course," he said. "I really hope we will have a project together." **Lara** already has a boyfriend, a registered nurse. If she didn't, we asked, would he court her? He smiled "Why not? She's gorgeous and smart. Her bf is one lucky guy." I teased him, "You were linked to Miss Earth 2001 **Carlene Aguilar**. You really go for beauty queens, huh?" He laughed and said, "Not really. As much as possible, I'd like my gf to not be a celebrity. But if she happens to be one and she's even more popular than I am, I won't mind. I can handle it." With all the girls fantasizing about him, **Dennis**' last name could very well be changed to "ThRILL-yOu!"

Guess list

Guess who this young singer is? The staff of a variety show got shocked when they called her from backstage for her number. They caught the chanteuse and her lady manager kissing torridly! To think she has legions of male fans (a lot of my guy friends have a crush on her). Oh, well. Her sexual preference has nothing to do with her music. One sound fits all!

Guess who this matinee idol is? During a mall tour, there was pizza delivered backstage. As soon as the pizza arrived, he got one family-size box. The staff thought he would share it with them. Not! He ate it all! As if that was not enough, he got two more boxes to take home. Excessive appetite or lack of social grace?

Just asking

Snooky Serna has been harping about the collapse of her marriage. One moment she says she has separated from husband **Ricardo Cepeda**; the next she insists she wants to work things out. Is she trying to convince the public or herself? Maybe she should stop analyzing the situation and just continue living and loving (**Ricardo** or whomever she pleases). Enough of her soliloquies. Yup! Love makes the world go round but **Snooky**'s love story makes viewers' heads spin!

"Sis" is adding new segments. Is this a move to improve ratings, since their rival show, "Homeboy," is currently reigning supreme? I have been a guest on both shows. **Janice, Gelli** and **Carmina** have good chemistry but sometimes they tend to be hyper at the same time. Maybe they should be given separate segments, depending on their forte. "Homeboy" is more focused. **Boy Abunda** doesn't only talk well; he also listens well. That's why he can make the simplest subjects seem interesting.

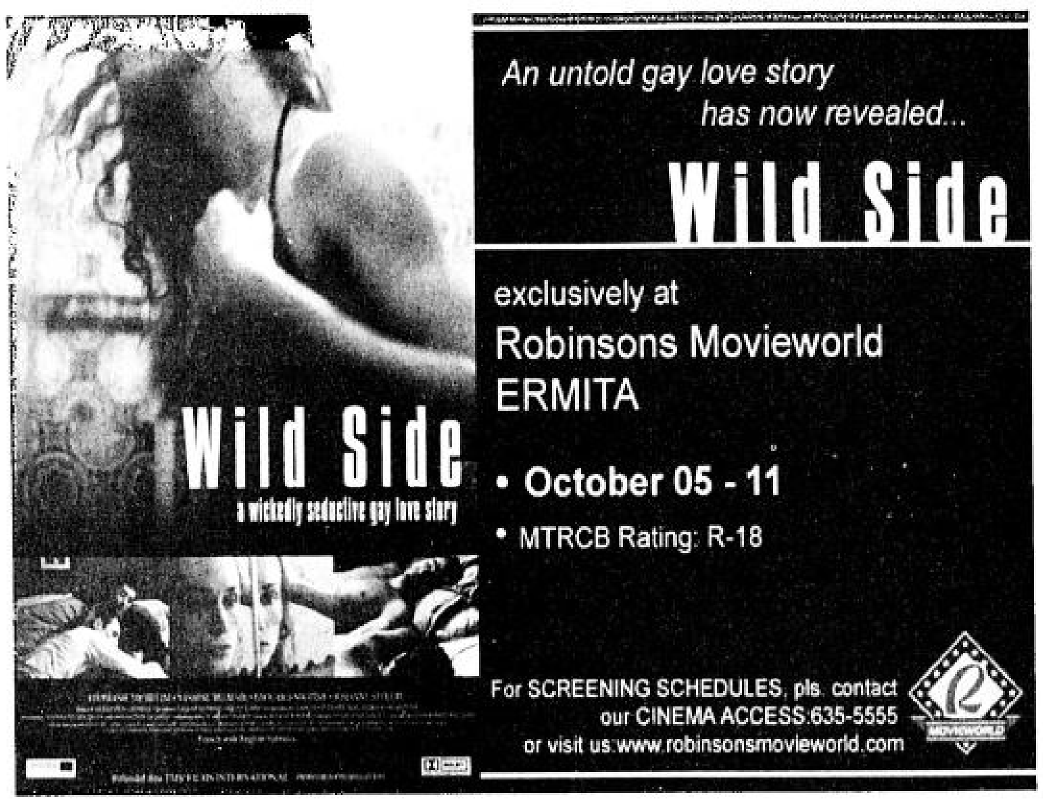
'Ilusyunada' tonight

Allow me to thank everybody—especially **Mother Lily**, Direk **Maryo J. de los Reyes** and Direk **Elwood Perez**—who watched my son **IC** last Tuesday in Oro Entertainment's sex comedy play, "Ilusyunada." For once, I am at a loss for words. I have never felt prouder as a mom. You can still catch **IC** and the nine hunks with him on stage at 10 tonight, Metro Bar, West Ave., Quezon City. Tickets available at the gate. Leave your inhibitions at home and nurture your illusions just as IC does!

Bluetooth band

With homegrown pop-rock once again ruling the airwaves, one band has quietly made a name for itself—Bluetooth, whose current release, "Pangarap," is fast gaining airplay. The band is comprised of **Ariz** (lead guitar), **Adan** (drums and vocals), **Ilo** (bass guitar) and **Erik** (vocals). Bluetooth's self-titled album also contains the singles "Life," "3 A.M." and "If Only." For booking inquiries, call **Paula**, 914-1104.

(Email wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@citykartracing.com)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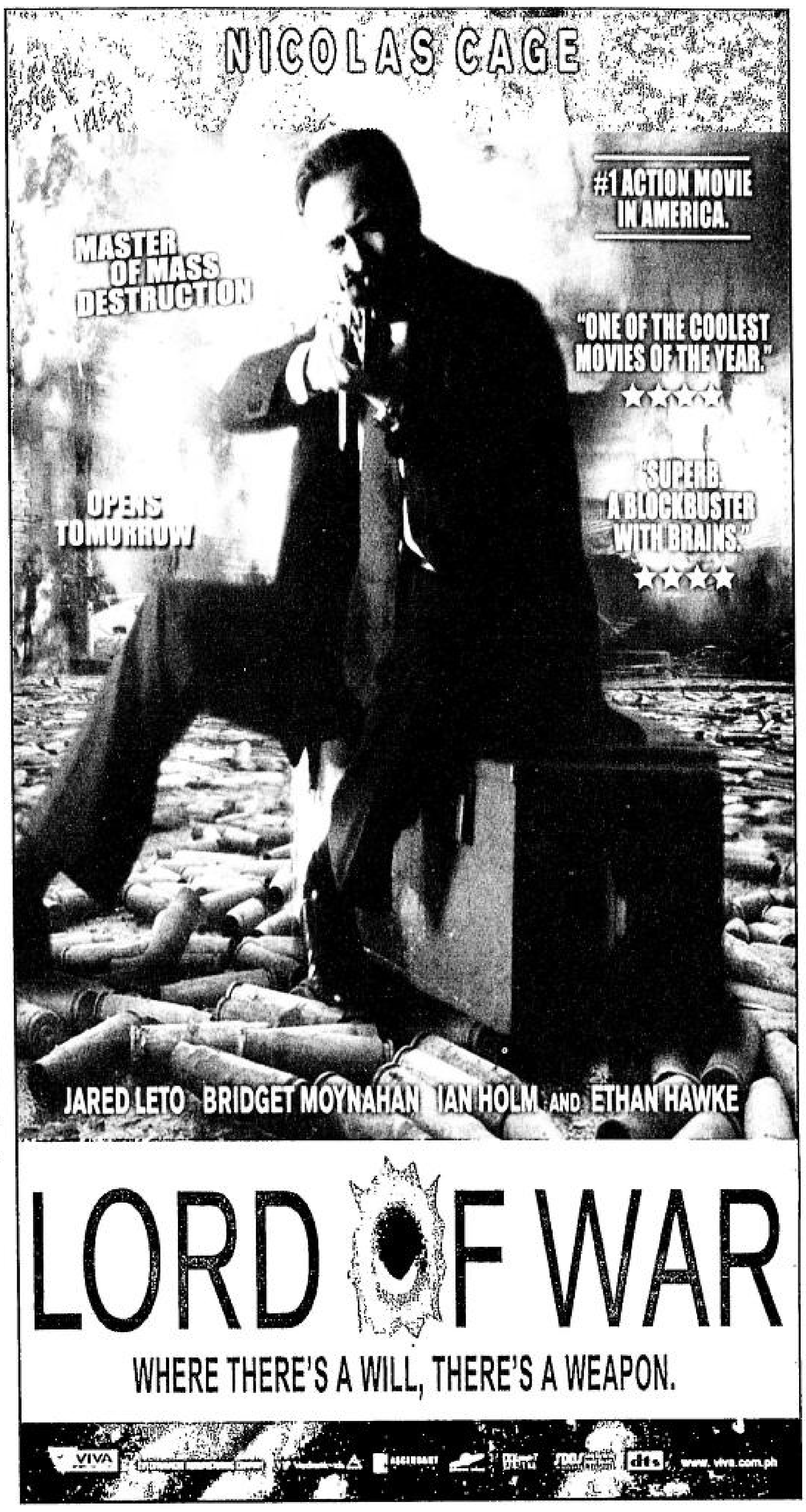
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1 INTO THE BLUE
01:30FS/01:50MF/04:10/06:30
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:50END
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
01:20FS/01:40MF/03:30/05:20/07:10
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:20END

MEGAMALL
INTO THE BLUE
12:10FS/12:40MF/03:00/05:20/07:40
09:30LFS/10:00LMF/11:50END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
2 INTO THE BLUE
12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:25END
3 DARK WATER
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:36
09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6 DARK WATER
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 DUBAI
9 DUBAI
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
11 PERFECT MAN
12 UNDISCOVERED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 PERFECT MAN
2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
3 DARK WATER
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 TRANSPORTER 2
6 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
8 LOVESTRUCK
9 DUBAI
10 BOTHERS GRIMM
11 LAND OF THE DEAD
12 UNDISCOVERED

SM NORTH EDSA
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 UNDISCOVERED
6 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
7 TRANSPORTER 2
8 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

SM CITY STA MESA
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DUBAI
6 PERFECT MAN
7 UNDISCOVERED
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE
9 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
10 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 DUBAI
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 LAZARUS CHILD
6 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
TRANSPORTER 2
8 LAND OF THE DEAD
9 UNDISCOVERED
10 LOVESTRCUK

SM CITY MANILA
1 UNDISCOVERED
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 BROTHERS GRIMM
6 INTO THE BLUE
7 DUBAI
8 PERFECT MAN
9 LAND OF THE DEAD
10 BLADE OF THE ROSE
11 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
12 DUBAI

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 DUBAI
4 TRANSPORTER 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 DUBAI
3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
4 TRANSPORTER 2

SM SAN LAZARO
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 UNDISCOVERED
6 DUBAI

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 DUBAI

SM CITY BACOOR
1 LOVESTRUCK
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 DUBAI
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 TRANSPORTER 2
6 DUBAI
BLADE OF THE ROSE
8 INTO THE BLUE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 PERFECT CATCH
3 DUBAI
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY LUCENA
1 DUBAI
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SISTERHOOD
2 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS
3 LAND OF DEAD
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY MARILAO
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 DUBAI
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 DARK WATER
2 DUBAI
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 THE CAVE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 DARK WATER
4 PERFECT MAN
5 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
6 THE JACKET
7 DUBAI
8 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 DARK WATER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
7 RESERVED
8 LONG WEEKEND

SM CITY DAVAO
1 PERFECT CATCH
2 DARK WATER
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 CONSTANT GARDENER
6 LONG WEEKEND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 CINDERELLA MAN
2 DUBAI
3 RED EYE
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

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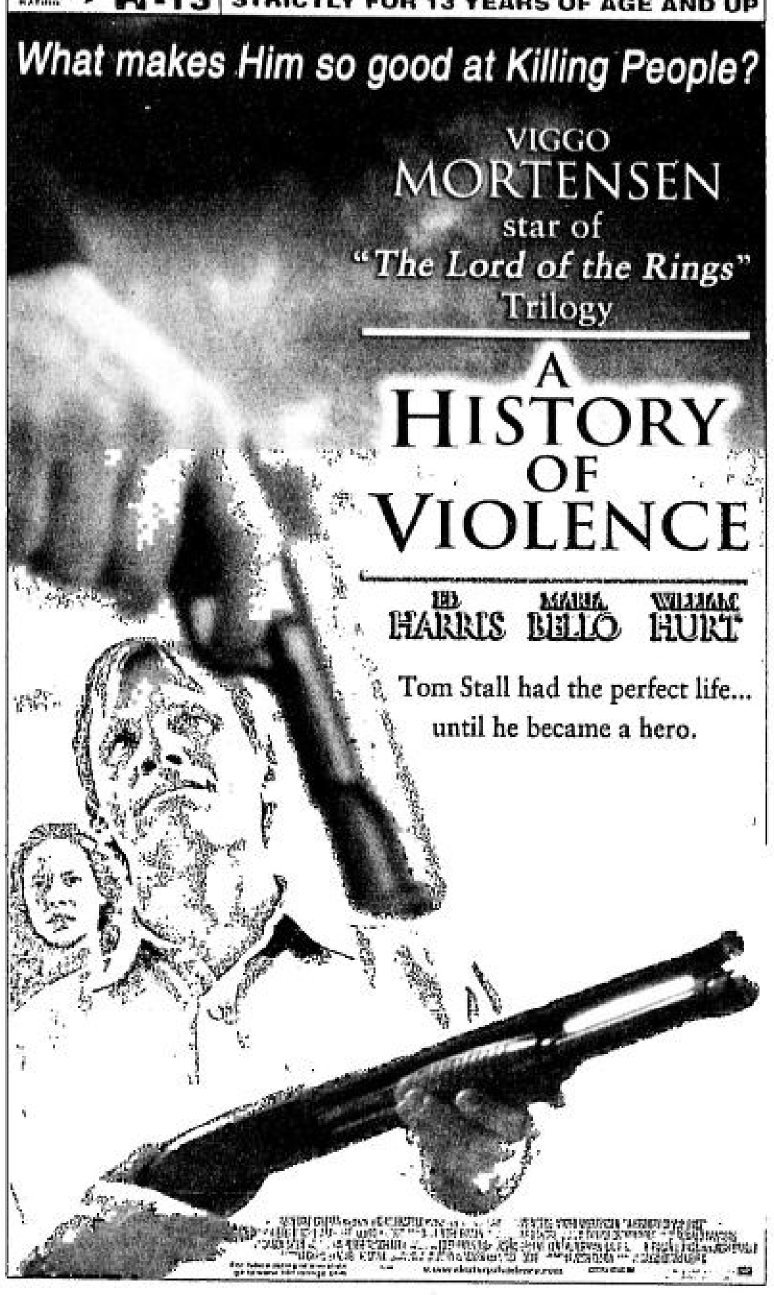
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CINEMA 2 TRANSPORTER 2
PG13
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CINEMA 3 CORPSE BRIDE
GP
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CINEMA 4 INTO THE BLUE
PG13
10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

CINEMA 5 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN - R13
11:45, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10

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1 CORPSE BRIDE
MTRCB GP
1.20, 3.30, 5.40, 7:50, 10.00

2 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
MTRCB R-13
2.00 4.40 7.20 10.00

3 DUBAI
MTRCB PG-13
12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7:30, 10.00

4 INTO THE BLUE
MTRCB. PG-13
1.45, 4.30, 7.15, 10.00

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1	DUBAI	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
2	TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE	12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:55	GP
3	40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00	R-13
4	INTO THE BLUE	12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00	PG-13

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UNDISCOVERED PG13 1:55,4:05 TRANSPORTER 2 PG13 6:20,8:20,10:20	TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE GP 12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00	DUBAI PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00
THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN R13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE R13 1:30,3:30,5:30,7:30,9:30	INTO THE BLUE PG13 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00

"HIDDEN Blade," by Yamada Yoji (2005)

Special treats at Cinemanila

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE 2005 CINEMANILA INTERNATIONAL Filmest opens tomorrow in SM and Robinsons theaters in Manila. Watch out for these special treats:

"Clean" (France) by **Olivier Assayas**, featuring **Maggie Cheung** in her 2004 Cannes award-winning portrayal of a woman torn between reaching her dreams as a singer and facing reality with a dead husband and an estranged son.

"The King" (USA) by **James Marsh**, with **Gael Garcia Bernal** playing a young man searching for the father he never knew.

"Brokeback Mountain" (USA) by **Ang Lee**. The powerful story of two young men (**Heath Ledger** and **Jake Gyllenhaal**) who meet in 1963 sheepherding in the harsh grasslands of Wyoming. Award: Golden Lion, Venice 2005.

"The President's Last Bang" (Korea) by **Sang-soo Im**. Heavily censored in Korea, this black comedy recreates a private party held at the president's secret quarters on Oct. 26, 1979, where Kim Jae-kyu, the chief of Korea's Central Intelligence Agency, shot and killed the president.

"Hidden Blade" (Japan) by **Yamada Yoji**. Three friends and their loved ones are caught in the conflicts of mid-19th century Japan, with the decline of the warring Shogun and Samurai caste affecting even the small fiefdom of Unasaka.

"Joint Security Area" (Korea) by **Chan-wook Park**. This thriller mines the historic tension between North and South Korea over activity in the Joint Security Area, a region guarded by armies from both countries.

"Better Luck Tomorrow" (USA) by **Justin Lin**. About the perfect Asian-American high school teen, whose life suddenly tumbles into a downward spiral of excitement, excess and danger.

"War Photographer" (Switzerland) by **Christian Frei**. About **James Nachtwey**, who's considered one of the bravest war photographers of our time, but hardly fits the cliche of the hard-boiled war veteran.

"Dear Wendy" (Denmark) by **Thomas Vinterberg**. A young loner finds a handgun and is strangely drawn to it, despite his fervent pacifist views.

"Color Blossoms" (Hong Kong) by **Yonfan**. The film uses a love affair with sado-masochistic and transsexual elements to explore the themes of desire, suffering, innocence and seduction.

"Taegukgi (Korea) by **Je-gyu Kang**. A drama about the fate of brothers forced to fight in the Korean War.

"The Isle" (Korea) by **Kim Ki Duko**. A dark fantasy about the extremes of obsession, sado-masochistic mutilation and the Shangri-La we all desire. Also keep an eye out for **Ousmane Sembene's** "Moolaade" and Mohammad Asli's "In Casablanca, Angels Don't Fly."

Cinemanila is presented by the City of Manila and the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines and runs until Oct. 25.

Other festival highlights: **Roger Corman** will be conferred a Lifetime Achievement Award by Manila Mayor **Lito Atienza**, and the Pusan filmest's **Kimm Dong Ho** will be given a special tribute. Log on to www.cinemanila.com.ph

Movies on TV

ON HBO, today at 2 p.m., "The First Wives Club." Tomorrow at 7 p.m., "Something's Gotta Give."

On Cinemax, today at 7:30 a.m., "The Last Hurrah." 2:30 p.m., "Giant." 5:45 p.m., "Fool for Love." 3:30 a.m., "House of Wax." Oct. 12 at 6:30 a.m., "Bonnie and Clyde."

Stunt awards

STAR Movies telecasts the 2005 Taurus World Stunt Awards show at 9 p.m. on Oct. 29. The best stunt men and women in the global entertainment industry will be recognized for their extraordinary feats in movies shown in 2004 and the first half of 2005.

Film studies

STARTING January 2006, the International Academy of Film and Television will offer a one-year Immersion Program to aspiring filmmakers, under the tutelage of industry professionals from the US and elsewhere. The one-year course will consist of five nine-week sessions with a new influx of students every two months. The Academy is located in Cebu, with its newly constructed facilities—soundstages, recording and Foley studios, a Dolby-certified sound mixing theater, and Final Cut Pro digital editing suites. Call +63 324126090 or visit www.study-film.com

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GALLERIA 632-9118

1 THE PERFECT CATCH • THX	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 TRANSPORTER 2	1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
2 INTO THE BLUE	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	7 THE DESCENT	12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
3 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	8 THE PERFECT MAN	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 UNDISCOVERED	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	9 LAND OF THE DEAD	1:20 3:40 5:50 8:00 10:00
5 CORPSE BRIDE	12:00 1:50 3:50 5:50 7:50 9:50	10 DARK WATER	1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 INTO THE BLUE	10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50		
2 THE DESCENT	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	5 UNDISCOVERED	10:30 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 WILD SIDE	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50	6 CORPSE BRIDE	10:30 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 TRANSPORTER 2	10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50	7 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 BLADE OF THE ROSE	1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15	5 THE PERFECT MAN	12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
2 DARK WATER	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	6 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
3 THE PERFECT CATCH	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	7 TRANSPORTER 2	12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:10
4 INTO THE BLUE	11:40 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30	8 LAND OF THE DEAD	12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 INTO THE BLUE
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 UNDISCOVERED
4 THE DESCENT

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 INTO THE BLUE
2 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 INTO THE BLUE
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
4 UNDISCOVERED

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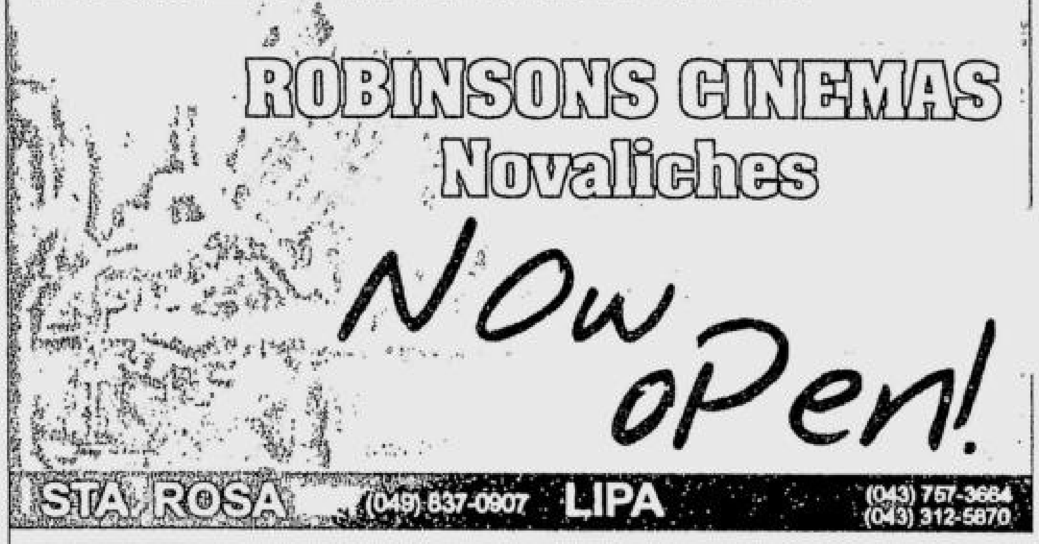

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	2 INTO THE BLUE	3 DUBAI	4 TRANSPORTER 2	
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 DUBAI	2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	3 THX INTO THE BLUE 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	4 TRANSPORTER 2	5 CORPSE BRIDE	6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	7 UNDISCOVERED	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL For more details, call 752-7865	2 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL For more details, call 752-7865			
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX INTO THE BLUE GUARANTEED SEATS			
	3 CORPSE BRIDE 1:55, 3:50, 5:45, 7:40, 9:35 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 TRANSPORTER 2 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 DUBAI 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX INTO THE BLUE	2 DUBAI			
	3 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN	4 CORPSE BRIDE	5 TRANSPORTER 2		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DUBAI	2 INTO THE BLUE	3 PERFECT MAN	4 DARK WATER	

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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'She said I was ugly'

HAPPY Ongpauco (above) claims Aiko Melendez also told her: "If you looked any good, you'd be a movie star."

By Jocelyn Valle, *Contributor*

"SHE CAN FABRICATE ALL THE STORIES that she wants but she knows in her heart what she's done and it will eat her up."

Businesswoman Happy Ongpauco was referring to actress and Quezon City councilor Aiko Melendez, with whom she had an altercation at Nuvo restaurant in Greenbelt 2, Makati in the early morning of Oct. 2.

Yesterday morning, Happy filed cases of physical injury and oral defamation against Aiko—who happens to be an ex-girlfriend of her husband Wowie Rivera—at the Office of the City Prosecutor in Makati.

She did not ask for damages. "We only want justice. This should be a lesson to her. *Masyadong malalim ang nangyari. Hindi lang ito away-babae,*" Happy told Inquirer Entertainment after a press conference at a family-owned restaurant.

Happy said she could no longer take the lies that Aiko had been dishing out in TV and print interviews, so she decided to come out in public for her side of the story. "She's like a loose cannon *na kung anu-ano ang sinasabi para lang ma-*justify *ang ginawa n'ya,*" said the businesswoman.

Who's the victim?

In her affidavit, Happy said that while Aiko was on her way to the bar inside the restaurant, "she passed by my side and without any provocation whatsoever and without any opportunity for me to defend myself howsoever hit me at the right arm with her elbow."

'SHE SAID/ A20

AIKO Melendez

INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Tuesday, October 11, 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		US X Games				Sento	Strange But True	Anak Ng Dagat				Big News	Three Blind Dates		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	My Sassy Girl	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Real Gilligan's Island		The Cut 1		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		Nuts	Outrageous	King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Buhay Pinoy	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	Spring Break	Diyes		Punk'D	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Get Spotted	TRL		Advance Warning	Pimp My Ride	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN	Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia	Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	X-Games Files	LPGA Golf					Figure Skating		Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia	Sportscenter Asia	Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '05		Major League Baseball				
Solar Sports		TV Shopping	Davis Cup 2005						2005 Asian Men Championship				Sports Desk	Greatest Classics			TV Over Time	Sports Desk	NBA Inside Stuff
Cinemax	Giant						Fool For Love (5.45 PM)				The Hitcher II I've Been Waiting			Tough Luck			Witchboard 2		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wire In The Blood		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Wire In The Blood		Scare Tactics			Agency II (10.35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Phil Of The Future		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Colour Of War III		Ancient Plastic Surgery		Wild Science		The Baby Human 2		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Extreme Survival		Mostly True Stories	
National Geographic		Interpol Investigates		Air Crash Investigation		Is It Real?		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Catastrophe: Hurricane Floyd/National Geographic Specials DNA Mystery Search For Adam		Interpol Investigates/ 7/7: Attack On London		Air Crash Investigation	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Moto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Desperate Housewives		Tru Calling		Friends	Ed
AXN		Lost		Lost		Sports Disasters IV		Alias (Season III)		The Contender		The Amazing Race Family Edition		Fear		House		Las Vegas	
JackTV	Family Guy	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Trigger Happy TV	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Ren & Stimpy Adult Party Cartoon	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		For Love Or Money		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Caddyshack (3.45 PM)				The Black Marble			The Devil's Own (7:15 PM)				Deadwood 08: Suffer The Little Children		Deadwood 09: No Other Sons Or Daughters		Jaws 2	
Star Movies		Snowman's Pass (3.05 PM)			All The Pretty Horses				Miracle (6.45 PM)					Lethal Seduction			The One		
Cinema One		Sagot Ng Puso				My Other Woman				Videoke King				Tong Tatlong Tatay Kong Pakitong-Kitong				Lihim	
EWTN	Angels Of God	Angelus (3.15 PM)	Saints For The Third Millenium: St. Therese Of Lisieux	Faith Factory B	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Pope Pius XII	The Journey Home		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9.15 PM)	Swear To God	The Sacraments Through The Ages	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Web Of Faith	

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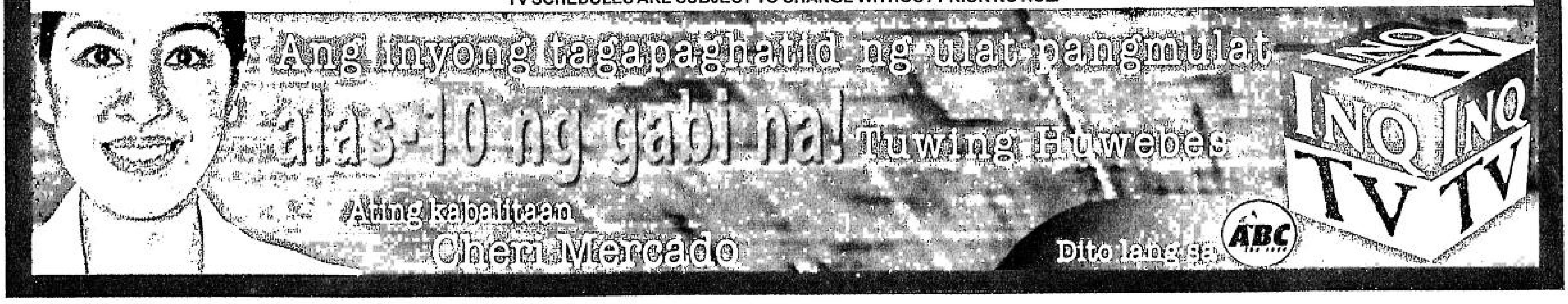
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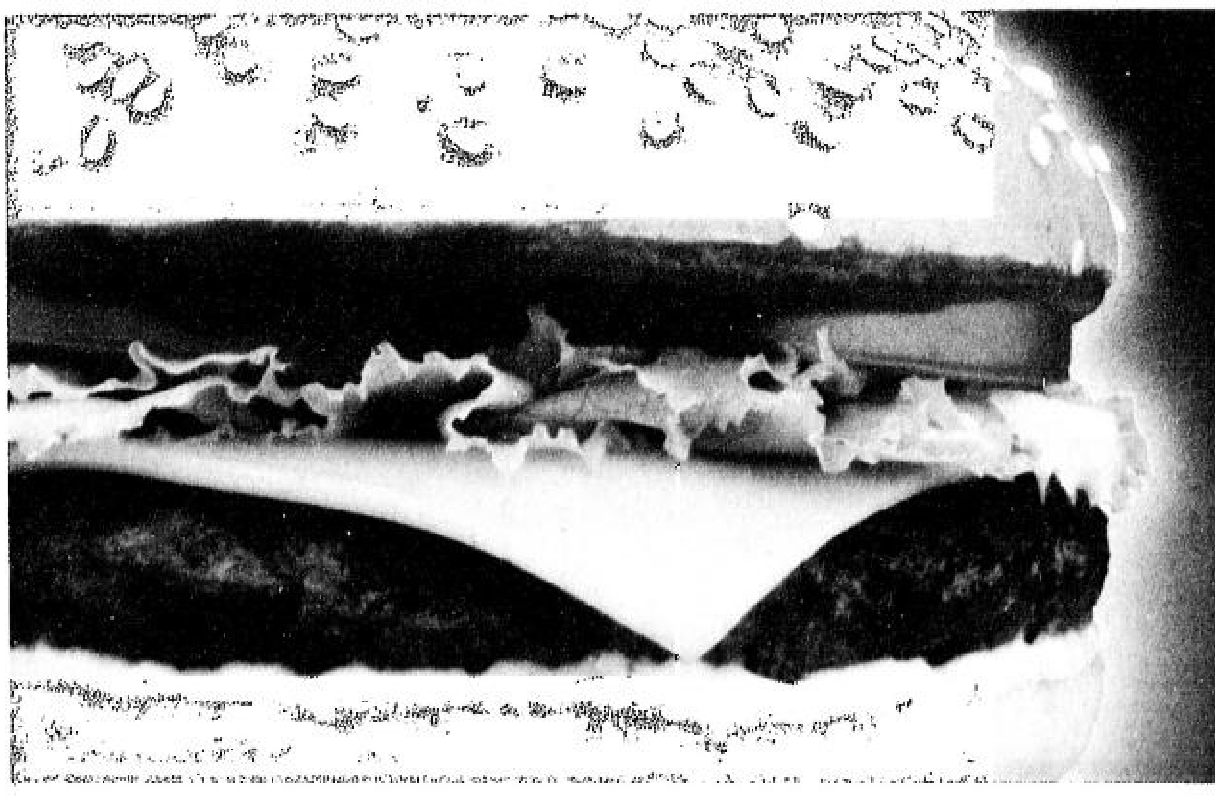
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TUESDAY,
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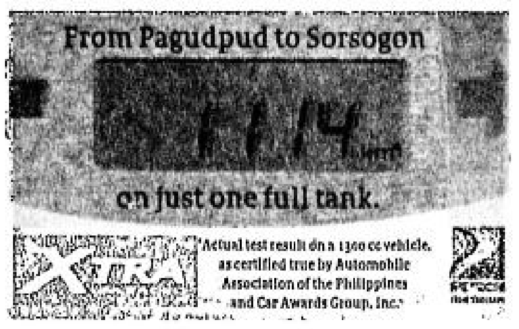

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T-bill rates decline across the board

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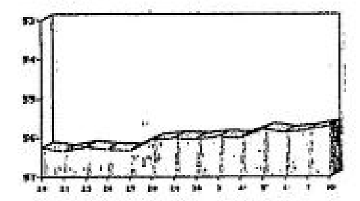


SEPTEMBER OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.70 = $

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 10, 2005

¥ 113.50 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 7, 2005

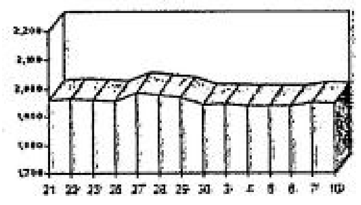
GOLD: $478.00-478.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 10, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SEPTEMBER OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end flat

SHARES ENDED LITTLE CHANGED yesterday, with shares of tycoon John Gokongwei's JG Summit jumping 4.2 percent following news of dividend payouts from its food manufacturing and property units.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed down 2.86

SHARES/ B4

Yield of 91-day securities at 5.877%

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY BILL RATES dropped across all maturities in yesterday's auction as highly liquid banks scrambled and competed for a reduced supply of government securities.

The benchmark 91-day rate fell by 2.1 basis points to an average of 5.877 percent. The 182-day yield eased by 7.8 points to 7.948 percent while the one-year rate dropped by 6.6 points to 8.976 percent.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the high demand for treasury bills was partly attributed to the P6.35 billion worth of maturing government securities this week that will further boost the liquidity of banks. He noted that the amount of maturing government securities was higher than the P4.5 billion worth of treasury bills being auctioned each week.

Cruz earlier said the Bureau of Treasury would cancel one treasury bill auction and one treasury bond auction in November, adding that the government already had a strong cash position that would allow it to reduce its domestic borrowings. The government normally borrows P4 billion through bond auction.

The government's P4.5-billion debt offering for each treasury bill auction date was also a reduction from an original schedule of P6 billion.

Cruz said the inability of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs to meet their revenue collection targets for the past months did not threaten the national government's fiscal performance as a whole. He said the Bureau of Treasury's revenue collection more than offset the shortfall of the

T-BILL/ B4

Tax credits eyed for wage earners

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS PROposed the granting of tax credits to low-income earners, with the intention of sparing them from the need to pay income tax amid their dwindling purchasing power.

Under the DOF's proposal, the national government would be providing tax credits to each minimum-wage earner. The amount of tax credits would be equivalent to the amount of his or her income tax liability, net of allowable deductions.

In computing one's income tax liability, the government currently allows personal exemptions—which range from P20,000 to P32,000 depending on civil status and whether he or she has dependents—to be deducted from his or her taxable income. The government likewise allows a taxpayer to deduct from his or her annual taxable income P8,000 per dependent (provided that the number of dependents would not exceed four).

Finance Assistant Secretary Gil Beltran said the DOF preferred the tax-credit system over the proposal in Congress to increase the

TAX/ B4

WHAT'S INSIDE

Forex gains boost Piltel profit in 9 mos /B4

Creation of Southeast Asian mining bloc planned /B3

Lawsuit hasn't hurt mining in RP, says group /B8

Economic and Industry risk in Asia-Pacific Life Insurance Market

		Economic risk					
		Very High	High	Moderately high	Moderate	Moderately low	Low
Industry risk	Low						
	Moderately low					Australia Singapore Hong Kong	
	Moderate				Malaysia	Japan New Zealand	
	Moderately high			Thailand	Taiwan		
	High		China Philippines				
	Very High	Indonesia	India				

Reforms deemed crucial in weak insurance sector

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Conclusion)

SPECIAL REPORT

IF INTERNATIONAL CREDIT watcher Standard & Poor's is to be believed, the Philippine insurance industry is one of the weakest and most unreliable in the Asia-Pacific region.

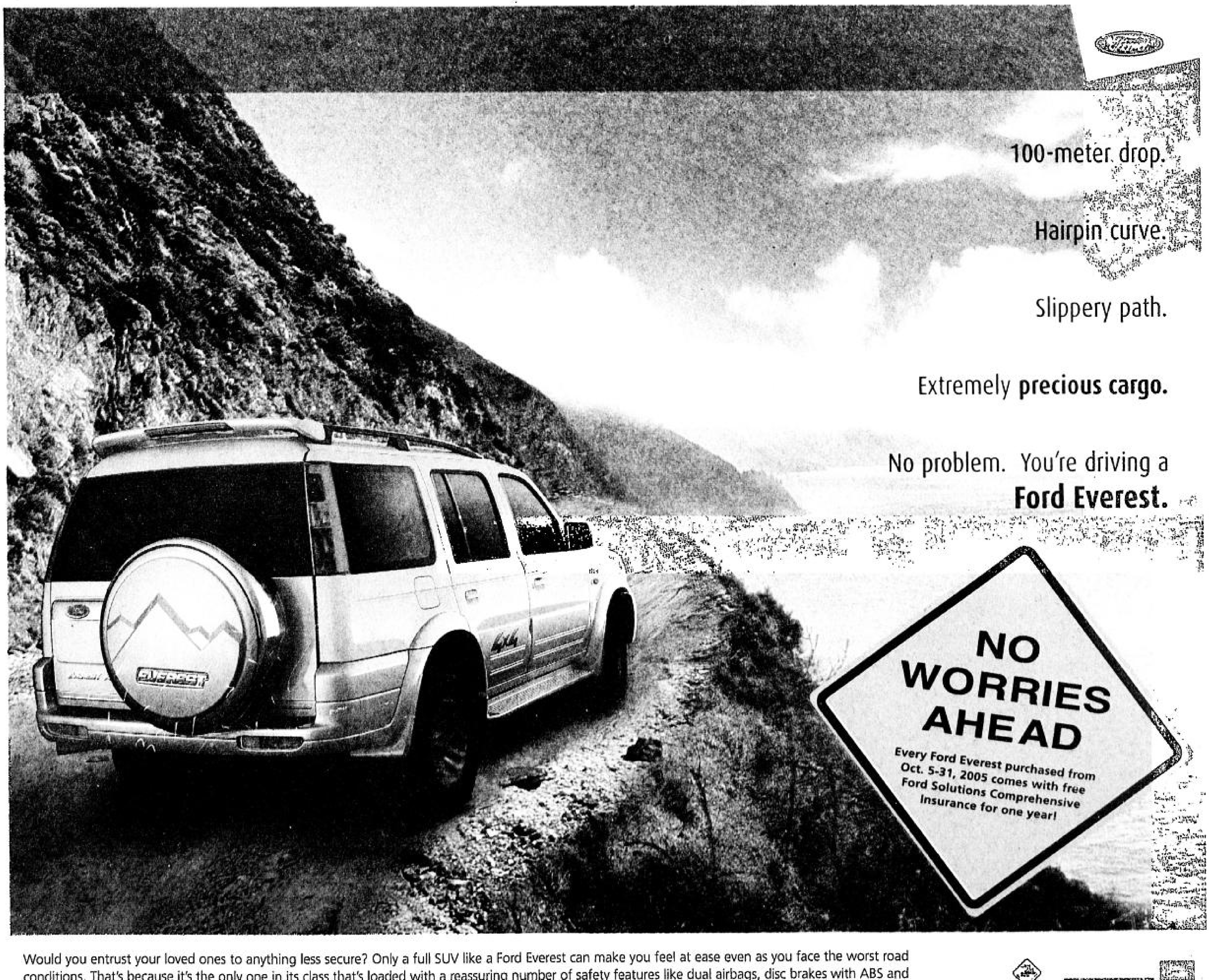
In fact, a recent S&P study ranks the country's property and casualty insurance sector close to the bottom of the pile.

"The [local] market has poor operating performance and structural issues have made the Philippines a higher-risk market in the region," the influential ratings firm said. "The companies have low levels of capitalization and a high reliance on reinsurance, coupled with weak underwriting practices."

The Philippine life insurance sector fared only marginally better in the same study, with S&P describing the business as a "high/very high risk market," which—along with Indonesia, India and China—were described as having the "lowest level of market sophistication."

Former Insurance Commissioner Benjamin S. Santos said S&P's description of the indus-

REFORMS/ B3



100-meter drop.
Hairpin curve.
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All for shoo

ALL RIGHT, SO THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism pulled off a little coup in London. Its catchphrase, "WOW! Philippines," has been making the rounds of that city like a real tourist—you know, on rip-off taxicabs.

Who knows? Today, the taxicabs in London; tomorrow, the FBI computers in Washington!

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

I mean, not for espionage, okay! We're in the cyber age and, with the help of the Internet, we can surely bring our tourism campaign "WOW! Philippines" even to those people in the FBI and CIA.

Maybe they will come to our country as tourists sometime. Unlike today, they always come here as spies, who amass information—right in our own country—about our affairs, which they use for their own interest. And nobody here minds them, much less bothers them with threats of imprisonment.

Somehow, the "WOW! Philippines" campaign can bring in the tourists. So when the tourists come, what do we do? Really, we can wow the whole world all we want, but in the end, for us to earn those billions of tourist dollars, we still have to build our tourism infrastructure.

We still have an old ugly rundown airport.

* * *

BUT hopefully, things will change soon, because we are rushing to open the new, but still unfinished, airport terminal called Naia 3.

We have been rushing construction of the new airport for the past 13 years now. And so, we can expect to open it anytime soon, perhaps over the next lifetime.

Whether we like it or not, the airport is the frontliner of the tourism show. The airport, as my Apong Oning used to say, "is like our best foot forward ... it is about making a lasting first impression, so that we can let the cat out of the bag of tricks or treat." Something like that!

For the problematic Naia 3, the original opening target date was 1999 or 2000 at the latest.

That was the understanding in the nullified contract between the administration of Kuya Eddie (aka former President Fidel Ramos) and the firm called Piatco.

It's already 2005 and the terminal has yet to open. Worse, it has yet to be completed. The reason for such tardiness is definitely not the so-called "Filipino time."

* * *

PIATCO'S original proposal was all for show, and so this cute administration had to shoo the firm out of the project. As things stand, the project is at a standstill.

The main reason was pure and simple: lack of money. Piatco, as the original concessionaire, did not have the money to start with.

Thus, Piatco took its sweet time to commence construction. The DOTC gave the concession to Piatco in 1997. Piatco was able to delay it because of a side agreement, which allowed Piatco to start construction a year later. This was extended by another year through another "amendment agreement."

Under the contract, Naia 3 should be in full operation after only 30 months from the date of award. Again, that's FULL operation.

Through some magic, Piatco got from DOTC some 17 changes in the original agreement, including the removal of the 30-month deadline for full operation.

But it took Piatco some three years to look for a financier, which turned out to be the German firm Fraport.

The project only started three long years after the Cheng family bagged the contract in 1997, or until the German firm Fraport could come in with the funding in 2000.

In other words, construction only started when the project was supposed to have been finished.

Whadayano, today the project is not yet finished! Wow, Philippines *talaga*!

* * *

WHEN Fraport got in, it wasted no time in financing everything, giving this cute administration reason to investigate Fraport for alleged violation of the anti-dummy law.

(Between us girls, I heard that the NBI investigation is done.)

Piatco simply did not have the financial capability for such a huge venture.

In fact, according to the Senate blue ribbon report, Piatco included the total net worth of Security Bank to show it had the money.

Okay, the bank was an investor in Naia 3, through the company called SB Airport (SB as in Security Bank), but banking rules prohibit banks from investing more than 15 percent of its net worth in a single venture.

And then, Piatco's main stockholder Vic Cheng Yong even claimed in the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings that he is related to the owners of Baguio Oil.

He was a chemist in Baguio Oil, period.

That's why, by the way, this cute administration charged the father and son Chengs with plunder, including former DOTC Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, Fraport executives Bernd Struck and Hans-Arthur Vogel, and a certain Jose Gabriel Benedicto, reportedly a former partner at the Romulo Mabanta law office.

The case is now with the Supreme Court for resolution. Oh, by the way, plunder can get you the capital punishment.

* * *

AFTER Piatco, or whatever it was that hit the fan, this cute administration filed case after case in connection with Naia 3.

But who would try to use his political influence to fix those cases but the one and only newspaper owner Emilio Yap, also known as "Don" Emilio?

Still, after all the publicity about the entry of the "Don" into the Naia 3 project, through Manila Hotel Corp., nobody really saw any proof of money changing hands.

Yet the Naia 3 project needs some $100 million to be completed. One concern is security, which is only the biggest concern in all airports in the world.

Naia 3 has no road links to the domestic terminals, for instance, forcing passengers and cargo (i.e., transit traffic) to get out of the terminals, go to public roads, and then get into another terminal again.

Even DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza, the former PNP head, agreed that it was a major security problem.

Now, does the "Don" really have the money to finish the terminal?

Look, when the "Don" supposedly bought the same Manila Hotel from GSIS, he left some loose change of P1 billion unpaid. The wonder of it all is, GSIS has yet to collect from the "Don." And GSIS is not even trying.

* * *

TO TOP it all, this broke but still cute administration plans to borrow P30 billion for the airport, partly to pay Piatco and Fraport for the work they did so far, and also to complete the project once and for all.

Winston, we have a problem. According to DBP president Reynaldo David, the government will need much more than P30 billion for Naia 3.

And mind you, this cute administration is already burying us under a mountain called national debt. I am not sure that incurring more debts for Naia 3 is such a wise move. Our foreign creditors won't be jumping for joy, they will charge us with interest rates that will run up to the next solar system.

So, as the song goes, how do you solve a problem like Naia 3?

Well, it so happens that the original group tapped by the Kuya Eddie administration for the project wants to make a comeback.

It is made up of the country's taipans (i.e., filthy rich Chinese-Filipinos), in the company known as AEDC. This company definitely has money.

For that was the original concept—that those with money coming out of their ears should do something good for the country, such as building an airport terminal with the minimal charge to the public, but with the biggest impact on the travel industry.

The process goes something like this: Since the taipans already have the money, they can pay this cute administration for the terminal right away, the Palace then turns around to pay Piatco the compensation for the expropriated project, and—presto—we have an operational terminal.

The biggest question is, how much is the unfinished facility worth. For the AEDC, the amount it should give to the government could be based on a valuation from experts. For this cute administration, the amount it should give to Piatco should be determined by an audit. Piatco must open its books.

Come on, we started work on the new airport more than 10 years ago. There's got to be a way to hurry the project even if just a bit. The tourists are coming!

BSP proposes phased branching liberalization

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has mapped out a phased liberalization of banks' branch expansion for the first time since an absolute moratorium was imposed about five years ago.

BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination Nestor Espenilla Jr. yesterday told reporters that a draft circular would be released today proposing the partial liberalization of the rules on bank branching.

Under the plan, banks will be allowed to open new branches anywhere in the country except in seven cities that are considered adequately served, such as Makati, Manila, Quezon City, San Juan and Mandaluyong.

Espenilla said big banks would be allowed to apply for five new branches at any given time while small banks would be allowed one at a time.

"Once they have opened all five, that's the only time they can open more," he said, noting that even within Metro Manila, there were areas that could still accommodate more banks.

The partial bank branching liberalization is meant to give well-run and well-capitalized banks more flexibility to improve their operations and offer more services to their clients. However, he added, only qualified banks would be allowed to open new branches.

Prior to the imposition of the moratorium, banks were allowed to apply for the opening of as many as 50 new branches.

An internal BSP study earlier uncovered some areas with insufficient access to banking services.

The policy thrust is for the BSP to lift the moratorium but only in selective areas.

Espenilla said the proposal had been discussed at the Monetary Board level but had yet to be approved. The BSP would release the draft circular to get feedback from the public.

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Conference Program & Schedule

Day 1, October 25, 2005, Tuesday
- Keynote Address
- Industry Situationer: 'IT/E-Commerce/Mobile/Wireless as Technology Tools for SMEs'
- Relevant Legislation on ICT/E-Commerce / Mobile/Wireless Affecting SME Business
- E-Commerce in a Nutshell: A Starter Course (Building websites, planning substansive content for web sites, choosing your ISP, domain name registration, search engine optimization, and affiliate program)
- Presentation and Panel Discussion on Database Marketing, Web Advertising, Mobile Marketing
- Creating Consumer Evangelists: Blogging, and Other Participative Technologies
- ICT and Telecom Presentation

Day 2, October 26, 2005, Wednesday
- Industry Situationer on Mobile Payment
- Available e-Payment Solutions (Panel Discussion and Discussion plus Case Presentation)
- Mobile Micro Payment in Small Business
- Security on Mobile Payment
- Business Efficiency and Productivity Through Technology (Best Practices and Case Study on e-Enterprise for SMEs)
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Creation of Southeast Asian mining bloc planned

By Christine A. Gaylican

SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, led by the Philippines and Indonesia, will create a regional mining bloc that aims to triple the region's mineral exports to the global market to as much as $15 billion in the next three years.

This is possible as the increasing demand for minerals in booming economies, such as China, Japan, India and Korea, will support increases in the region's mineral production, said Asean Federation of Mining Associations president Benjamin Philip Romualdez in a press briefing yesterday.

Good metal prices in the world market are seen to remain as demand continues to increase, and this bodes well for the industry.

"The Asean Federation of Mining Associations see the need for the region to meet an upsurge in demand," said Romualdez.

Global mining industry revenues have been rising since 2001 as metal prices have been steadily increasing. In 2003, mining revenue rose 18 percent to $110 billion from $93 billion in 2002.

Romualdez said there was still a huge potential for increased mineral output in Asean countries that remained untapped.

He said that Asean mineral producers—Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Laos—accounted for only about 5 percent or $5 billion of the global mineral production worth $110 billion.

The Asean Federation will hold a three-day mining conference to be attended by about 500 foreign and local participants. Among those participating are representatives from member companies of the Indonesian Mining Association, Malaysian Chamber of Mines, Mining Industry Council of Thailand and the Laos Mining Association. Private sector delegates and government representatives from Myanmar, Vietnam and Cambodia, which have yet to officially join the Asean Federation of Mining Associations, are also attending the conference.

The conference will likewise be attended by delegates from countries with highly developed mining industries including the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, China, Japan, and South Africa.

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Reforms deemed ...

From page B1

try's weaknesses jibed exactly with his reform thrust. He believes his crusade to address these concerns cost him his job as the country's top insurance regulator.

Entrenched malpractices

Speaking to the INQUIRER a day after he was unceremoniously fired by Malacañang, Santos paints a picture of a cutthroat non-life insurance industry where small—and poorly capitalized firms—lord over the market for so-called "public liability coverage" policies.

The former Insurance Commission chief said that while the country's top 10 insurance firms hold 70 percent of the market, the remaining 30 percent is kept in a stranglehold by smaller firms.

"This is the fiefdom of small companies which do business with the LTO [Land Transportation Office], Marina (Maritime Industry Authority), and Customs bonds," he said. "By some estimates, up to 50 percent of policies are not booked."

He said that many of these firms sell policies which are not declared as liabilities and are, therefore, not backed by the required financial resources. Therefore, when a liability arises from a car accident for example, the unsuspecting client cannot claim financial remuneration from the insurer because his policy was never booked in the first place.

"This is why international rating agencies think the Philippine insurance industry is weak," Santos said.

Santos claimed his downfall was engineered by, among others, Bulacan Rep. Lorna C. Silverio—a political ally of the administration—and Deputy Insurance Commissioner Vida T. Chiong who allegedly met with President Macapagal-Arroyo to seek his ouster.

Silverio's family owns Centennial Guarantee Assurance Corp., one of the firms whose financial performance Santos placed under close scrutiny.

"Silverio brought Vida Chiong to GMA, *nagsumbong at nagiyakan daw doon*," he claimed.

Silverio could not be reached for comment. In a telephone interview, however, Chiong denied that she met with either Silverio or the President, claiming instead that she was the victim of character assassination by Santos.

"Since day one, he has not treated me well," she said. "This [attack] is personal because he wanted to replace me with his own deputy commissioner."

Chiong was recently suspended by the Office of the Ombudsman for graft—she allegedly allowed an insurance firm under conservatorship to illegally withdraw P11.5 million in controlled assets—but she has appealed its ruling with the Court of Appeals.

"That was most unfair," she said of the Ombudsman's decision, explaining that the loss of the assets was beyond her ambit.

'No politics'

Speaking to the press last week, Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves denied that politics had a hand in his decision to fire Santos.

"I hope my history of decision-making is not associated with politics," he said.

He offered little by way of explanation for Santos' abrupt replacement—a situation Teves found himself in earlier this year when former Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima tried (and failed) to replace him as president of Land Bank of the Philippines.

Rather than focus on his reason for firing Santos, Teves said he wanted to focus on recently appointed Insurance Commission Evangeline C. Escobillo's strengths and qualifications.

"Vangie [Escobillo] has the qualities needed for reform," he said last week.

And how does Santos' reforms measure up to Teves' standards?

"These reforms are good," the finance chief said, adding that he wanted the new insurance chief to examine them closely.

"The increase in capital has to be discussed more thoroughly with stakeholders," Teves pointed out. "We should give the new commissioner a chance."

Escobillo admitted that she was facing a formidable task of reforming the industry, especially in terms of enforcing capitalization rules.

"Capital should always be increasing because the business is also growing," she said in an interview last week.

Escobillo made a name for herself campaigning against what she believed were malpractices in the pre-need industry, which is a close cousin of the insurance business.

She admitted that heading the Insurance Commission is her "dream job" ever since her early days as an actuary. She believed that reforms were "essential," but stressed that "the state of the industry is not very bad."

"But we have to keep improving," she said.

However, if Santos is correct that entrenched political interests had a hand in his ouster, Escobillo may soon have to temper her reformist leanings if she wants to keep her dream job.

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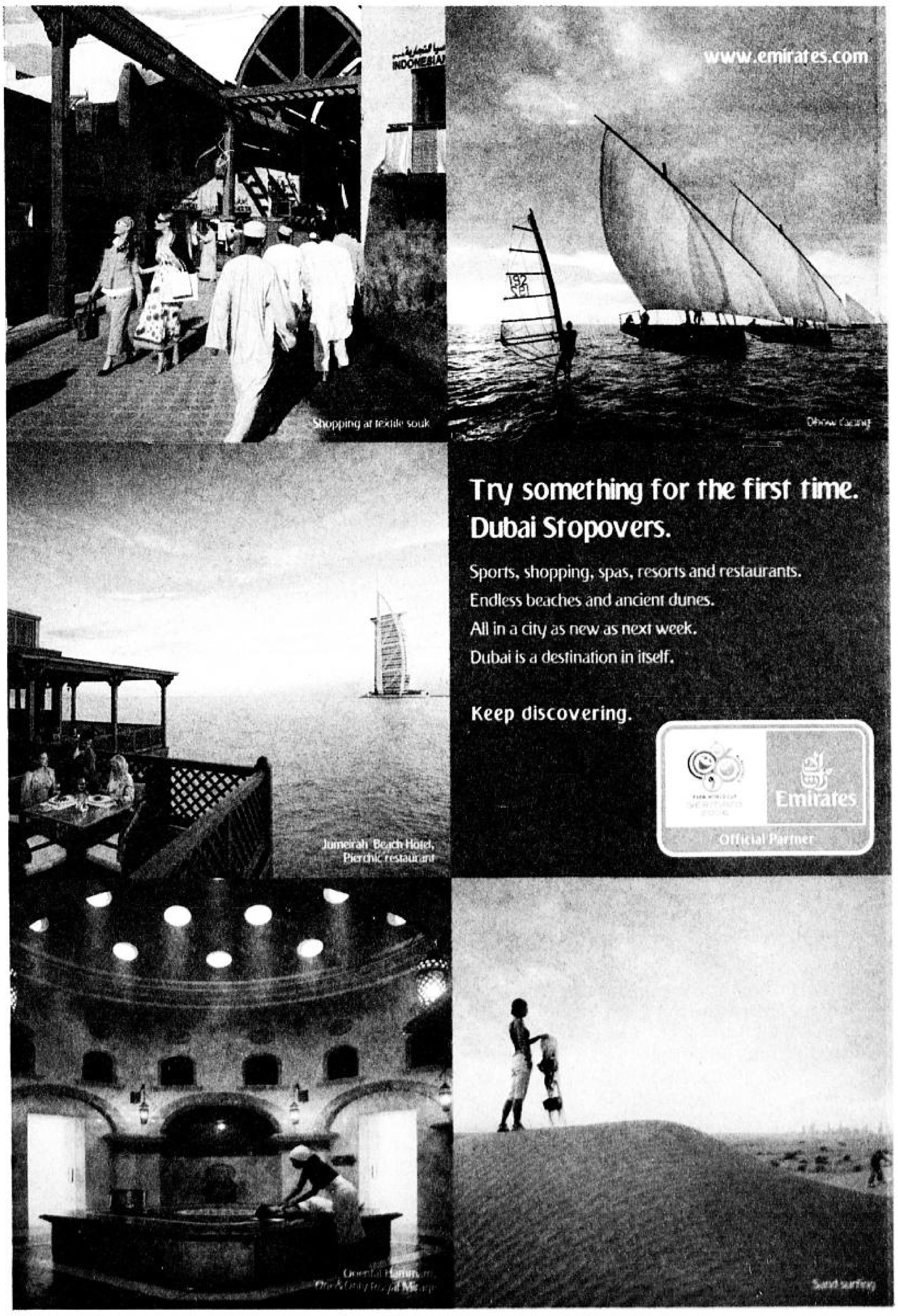

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Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	52.5	52.5	53,600
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	640,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48.5	49	48.5	49	234,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	186,000
Philippine National Bank	30.5	30.5	30	30	35,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15	15	15	15	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	29.5	29	29	19,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29	29	9,000
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Manulife Financial Corp.	2860	2865	2860	2865	770
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2020	2020	2020	510
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COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.25	14.25	14	14	2,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	3,200,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	730	740	730	735	18,300
Ipeople Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.85	2.9	409,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1665	1670	1660	1665	175,390
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	40,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	1,800,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	118,400
Manila Electric Co. B	20.75	21	20.75	21	322,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	965,000
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	523,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	633,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.1	9.1	9	9	273,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	29,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	147,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	40,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	1,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	103,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36.5	36.5	35.5	35.5	324,100
Pancake House Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	70,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	81,200
San Miguel Corp. B	91.5	92	91	92	141,900
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	300
Universal Robina Corp.	17	17	17	17	10,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,660,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	292.5	292.5	290	292.5	41,820
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	71,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	1,020,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	280,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	15,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	720,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	3,731,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	90,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.05	1,115,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.1	994,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5	5	5	5	86,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43.5	42.5	42.5	473,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.0625	0.0625	1,500,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	10,000
Ionics Inc.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	195,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.75	3.6	3.75	1,210,000
Keppel Holdings	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	8,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.78	17,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.36	618,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,750,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	790,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	250,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	220	217	217	177,660
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	60,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.3	1.18	1.2	28,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.06	200,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	630,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	40,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	166,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	2,000,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14	14.5	14	14.5	75,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	8,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	11,322,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.18	3,310,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	3,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	1,024,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	2,050,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	150,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.1	5.5	5.1	5.5	2,264,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	250,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	3,963,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.93	0.93	0.9	0.92	110,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	40,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	90,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	4,500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.245	14,260,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	2,140,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.1	722,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	26	26	695,200
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	62,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	123,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	114,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	100,000

CURRENCIES

October 10, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.824674	1.000000	55.8580
Japan	Yen	0.007250	0.008791	0.4910
United Kingdom	Pound	1.452416	1.761200	98.3771
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106343	0.128952	7.2030
Switzerland	Franc	0.645184	0.782350	43.7005
Canada	Dollar	0.702090	0.851354	47.5549
Singapore	Dollar	0.489974	0.594142	33.1876
Australia	Dollar	0.624375	0.757117	42.2910
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.187581	2.652661	148.1723
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219842	0.266581	14.8907
Brunei	Dollar	0.488522	0.592382	33.0893
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000100	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020188	0.024480	1.3674
UAE	Dirham	0.224541	0.272279	15.2090
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.212600	67.7334
Argentina	Peso	0.280980	0.340716	19.0317
Brazil	Real	0.364287	0.441735	24.6744
Denmark	Kroner	0.134030	0.162525	9.0783
India	Rupee	0.018615	0.022573	1.2609
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218804	0.265322	14.8204
Mexico	New Peso	0.076426	0.092674	5.1766
New Zealand	Dollar	0.573674	0.695604	38.8550
Norway	Kroner	0.126400	0.153273	8.5615
South Africa	Rand	0.126169	0.152992	8.5458
Korea	Won	0.000795	0.000964	0.0538
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024849	0.030132	1.6831

Tax credits eyed . . .

From page B1

threshold of personal exemption. Both proposals from the DOF and Congress seek to provide income-tax relief to the public, but Beltran said the DOF's version would ensure only those who are really in need of income tax exemption would be covered.

"We prefer providing tax credit to low-income earners because in increasing (the threshold) of personal exemptions, even the rich may benefit," Beltran explained. (Increasing the threshold of allowable deductions would mean that all taxpayers with dependents—whether high- or low-income earners—would have their taxable income reduced).

Several bills have been filed in Congress seeking to provide tax relief to the public in the form of reducing income tax rates or increasing the allowable deductions. *Michelle V. Remo*

Forex gains boost Piltel profit in 9 mos

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE SUSTAINED STRENGTH of the peso against the Japanese yen in the third quarter boosted the profit of Pilipino Telephone Corp. by more than P600 million in the first nine months, said Debbie Tan, head of Piltel's investor relations unit.

Tan said Piltel had been realizing foreign exchange gains since the first quarter, largely due to the appreciation of the peso against the yen.

Piltel's forex gains amounted to P741 million in the first quarter, which slightly dropped to P599 million in the second quarter.

Tan said that by the end of the third quarter, the year-to-date forex gains would be higher than the first half level.

Tan said the strength of the peso against the yen should benefit the entire group, including Piltel's parent firm Smart Communications Inc. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Smart completed in the first quarter its purchase of 92 percent of Piltel from PLDT.

Piltel reported a net profit of P4.6 billion in the first half, up 600 percent from P659 million in the same period last year. The amount included P600 million in foreign exchange gains.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said the third quarter profit .of the country's biggest phone company would match, if not surpass the second quarter net earnings of P8 billion.

A third of Piltel's debt, which was absorbed by Smart, is yen denominated. The balance is dollar-denominated.

The yen started depreciating against the peso in March.

T-bill rates . . .

From page B1

BIR and the BOC.

He added that while the government may post a budget deficit for September, it was still much ahead of its fiscal program on a cumulative basis. For the January-to-August period, the government posted a deficit of only P80 billion compared with the P120-billion ceiling set for the period.

The treasurer added that the slightly improving inflation also contributed to the softening of interest rates for government securities. Inflation is one factor influencing banks to either seek higher or lower yields on government securities, as the interest they should earn must be higher than the increase in prices.

Shares end flat

From page B1

points, or 0.1 percent, at 1,949.42, after Friday's 0.7 percent rise.

"Basically, our outlook is still for the market to stay within a tight trading range. Investors are still looking for positive leads," said AB Capital Securities analyst Erwin Balita.

Profit taking weighed down Bank of the Philippine Islands, which lost 1.9 percent to end at P52.50, and Jollibee, off 2.7 percent at P35.50.

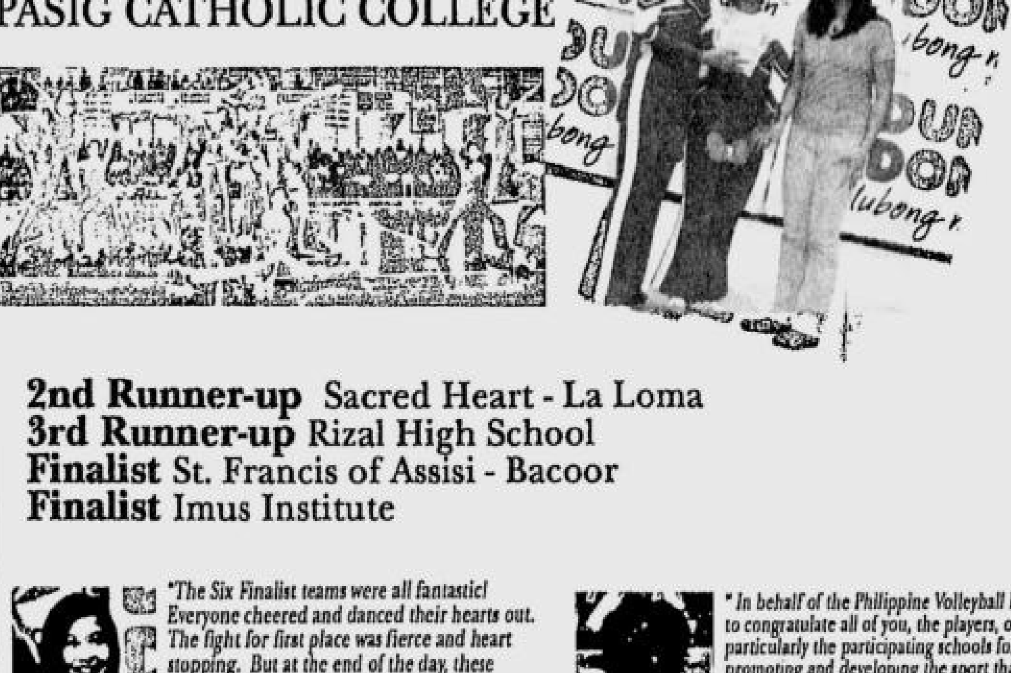
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most active stock, up 0.3 percent at 1,665 pesos, boosted by the 2.4 percent advance made by the company's American depositary receipts in New York Friday. AP

CONGRATULATIONS!

All photos by: Mr. Gus Infante

DUNKIN' DONUTS
CHEER-DANCE COMPETITIONS

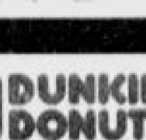
Champion
UNIVERSITY OF STO. TOMAS



1st Runner-up
PASIG CATHOLIC COLLEGE

2nd Runner-up Sacred Heart - La Loma
3rd Runner-up Rizal High School
Finalist St. Francis of Assisi - Bacoor
Finalist Imus Institute

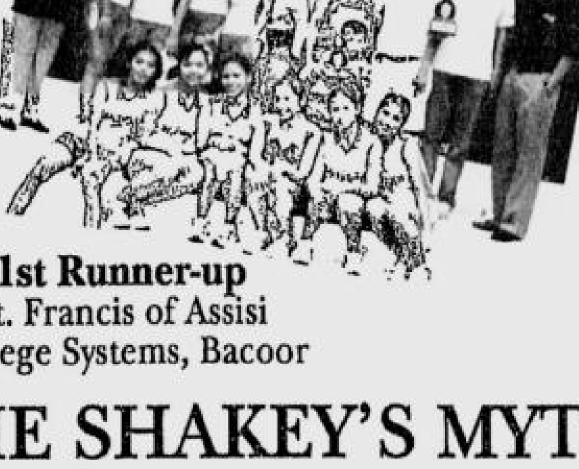
"The Six Finalist teams were all fantastic! Everyone cheered and danced their hearts out. The fight for first place was fierce and heart stopping. But at the end of the day, these awesome girls are all winners! And we at Dunkin Donuts would like to extend to them our heartfelt congratulations." said by Ms. Acris Bernabe, Marketing Services Manager of Dunkin Donuts.



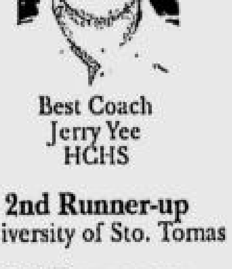
"In behalf of the Philippine Volleyball Federation, allow me to congratulate all of you, the players, organizers, sponsors, particularly the participating schools for your support in promoting and developing the sport that we all love, VOLLEYBALL. In every competition, there will be winners and losers. Nevermind if you win or lose because the greatest victory is not always in winning but rising every time we lose." said by Mr. Roger Banzuela, President, PVF.

SHAKEY'S GIRLS VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL LEAGUE

THE CHAMPION
Hope Christian High School



1st Runner-up
St. Francis of Assisi
College Systems, Bacoor



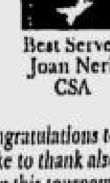
Best Coach
Jerry Yee
HCHS

2nd Runner-up
University of Sto. Tomas

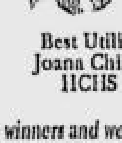
3rd Runner-up
Colegio San Agustin

THE SHAKEY'S MYTHICAL 6

MVP & Best Spiker
Mae Anne Raposa
SFACS

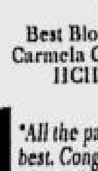


Best Server
Joan Neri
CSA

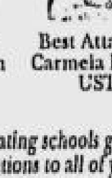


Best Utility
Joana Ching
HCHS

Best Setter
Rhea Dimaculangan
UST



Best Blocker
Carmela Garbin
HCHS



Best Attacker
Carmela Lopez
UST

"Our congratulations to the winners and we also would like to thank also all the participating teams for giving this tournament their best and of course to the organizers of this tournament. We look forward to the next staging of Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League and we hope to see you all again.." said by Mr. Vic Gregorio, General Manager of Shakey's.

"All the participating schools gave their best. Congratulations to all of you especially the Champion and to the Shakey's Mythical 6, MVP and the league's Best Coach." said by Ms. Meggie Jose, Marketing Manager of Shakey's.

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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

San Miguel Oktoberfest 2005: 'Kasiyahang walang katulad'

AS WE ENTER THE LAST QUARTER of the year, San Miguel is kicking off this year's San Miguel Oktoberfest like no other. Recognized by the Department of Tourism as one of the country's official fiestas, the 2005 Oktoberfest kick-off party will be held a l1 beer fairs nationwide. The venues included are: Bluewave, Macapagal Avenue; Eastwood, Libis; Edsa Central; Gateway Mall, Cubao; Greenhills; Intramuros; Metrowalk; Perimeter Road, Olongapo; SM City, Cebu; Sta. Lucia, Cainta; Starmall, Las Piñas; Stations 1, 2 and 3, Boracay; and The Venue, Davao.

This year's San Miguel Oktoberfest will be a beer drinker's paradise. There will be overflowing beer, endless appetizing food choices, numerous beautiful people, adrenaline-pumping sports cars, crowd-drawing bands, and lots of exciting games and prizes all cramped in each venue, Mondays through Saturdays, the whole month of October.

Beer can win you P1,000,000 at Oktoberfest. With a minimum purchase of 5 beers, you can register to get a shot in testing your luck in the SMB Lucky 7. Just like the "Laban o Bawi" of Eat Bulaga, you will be presented 14 boxes, 7 of which contain SMB logos inside. If you're lucky enough to pick all 7 special boxes, you're P1,000,000 richer.

In a time where cellphone technology is at its peak, as always, San Miguel is able to blend. With numbers allotted by all telecommunication providers specially for Oktoberfest, each beer you buy gives you a unique code to text. By the end of the night (Fridays and Saturdays only), you can also win as much as P2,500. The goal is to down the most number of beer in one night. This will happen in all the venues.

Here's a treat for all beer-lovers. Come and attend the beer fairs everyday and get a chance to win P2,500. To entice you to attend the beerfairs everyday, San Miguel introduces a Loyalty Card which you can fill with stamps, one stamp per day you attend. At the end of each week, the cards will be collected for the raffle. P2,500 awaits the chosen one in each venue.

Of course, San Miguel's valued retailers will not be left out. San Miguel has various tie-ups with 7-11 and Ministop the whole month of October.

Indeed, October is beer month. What else can you ask for? It surely is "kasiyahang walang katulad". Brought to you by San Miguel Pale Pilsen, "Ang beer na walang katulad!"

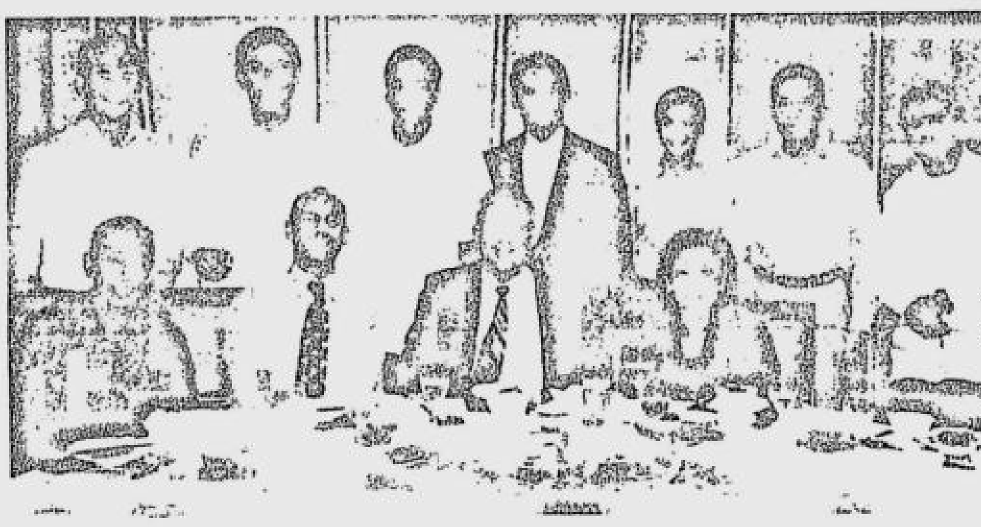
globe girlfriends
globe girlfriends

AVON, GLOBE GIRLFRIENDS TEAM UP AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Globe Girlfriends will be rallying behind Avon as it champions the breast cancer cause via a 3K non-competitive Fun Walk called 'Avon Walk Around the World for Breast Cancer'. The event, happening on Oct. 2 in Cebu City, Oct. 16 in Davao City and Oct. 23 in Manila, is open to men and women of all ages and fitness levels. Total funds raised from all three events amounting to a minimum of P500,000 up to P1 million will be matched by Avon Foundation for the benefit of the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Davao Medical Center and the PGH Breast Care Center. Interested participants may visit the Avon Cebu branch located at Fuente Osmena Blvd., Cebu City, and the Avon Davao branch at C.M. Recto Blvd., Davao City. Metro Manila participants may call Faith Aranton or Olen Jalandoni of Avon Marketing PR at 8642670-73 for registration details and other inquiries or visit Avon Boutiques in SM Megamall and Glorietta. Shown in photo are (from left): Globe Telecom corporate industry and Globe Solutions-sales head Armi Malaluan, Avon comptroller Miles Almendrada, Avon HR director Glecy Bagasin, Avon general manager Ina Quiogue, Globe Telecom consumer business head Ferdinand dela Cruz, Globe Telecom retail marketing head Raya Roa-Gonzalez and Avon marketing services manager Christine Eugenio.

PHILANTHROPIST SPONSORS FATHER PIO DOCUMENTARY

Philanthropist and socio-civic leader Rose Marie Arenas (right) chairperson of Father Pio Lend A Hand Foundation, signs a memorandum of agreement with Word Broadcasting Corp of Cebu City to sponsor the airing of a documentary on St. Father Padre Pio's life, 'Ang Kinabuhi Ko Panahon Ni Padre Pio' over DYRF-AM and DYDW-FM, which are headed by station manager Father Gil Peter Coching, SVD. Co-signing the agreement is assistant manager Malou Apalisok.



KSM-HKUST ASSOCIATE DEAN/DIRECTOR VISITS NUAAP

Dr. Steven J. deKrey, associate dean and director of the Kellogg-HKUST school in HongKong, visited with the Northwestern University Alumni Association of the Philippines board members in the course of his Southeast Asia Tour to promote enrollment. The school is a tie-up between the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University and HongKong University of Science and Technology Business School, which was established four years ago. Shown in photo at a dinner meeting at Shangri-La Makati were (seated, from left): Cezar Yatco, MBA '55; NUAAP president David Valdes, '92; Dean deKrey; and Kristen Suarez-Quintos, '86; (standing) Antonio Santos, KSM-HKUST student; David Chua, '02; Glenn San Luis, '92; Lucio Tan Jr., KSM-HKUST student; Sophia Echauz-Chua, '04; Kevin Belmonte, '86 and Melchor Guerrero, '93.

PRULife UK Phils builds library for GK housing project

GAWAD KALINGA OFFICIALS AND PRULIFE UK Philippines top management recently inaugurated in simple ceremonies the library for GK's low-cost housing project in Sison, Muntinlupa, with community leaders and residents in attendance.

The library, the second major building in the village, is a donation of PRULife UK. The company not only funded the construction but also contributed the services of its personnel who, for several weeks, helped build the facility, and later painted its exteriors as well as interiors.

The one-story library, with a floor area of 144 sq m, comes complete with tables, chairs, bookshelves and cabinets, five personal computers and a starting inventory of some 300 titles, including encyclopedias, reference books, textbooks and various other reading materials.

As part of the company's contribution to the project, PRULife UK employees also took care of arranging the contents of the library and have volunteered to conduct classes and educational activities for the community's children for a certain period of time.

Joining GK project resident leader Max Filart at the inauguration are PRULife UK top management, including: Bobby Madrid, president and CEO; Lope Garde, SVP and actuary; Vic Espanol, GM for sales; Belle Tiongco, VP-marketing services; Lei Lava, VP-human resources; Indren Naidoo, chief financial officer.

In a statement, PRULife president Bobby Madrid said that the company is "delighted to be involved in the Gawad Kalinga community-building effort which has started a revolution in giving the youth an opportunity to break away from a life of poverty and make a fresh start in a decent environment."

Gawad Kalinga is a nationwide community-building program, spearheaded by the Couples for Christ, aimed at transforming the poorest of the poor into productive, self-sufficient citizens. Anchored in the deep-seated Filipino's bayanihan spirit, the GK project has been hailed as a holistic solution to poverty in the Philippines.

Because of its far-reaching social impact, the GK has attracted some of the largest corporations in the country. One of them is PRULife UK, which has chosen GK as the centerpiece of its outreach program.

VENTURE 7 HOLDS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Shown are the dynamic ladies of Venture 7 (from left): Fanny Blanco, Linda Villadelgado, Celine Bautista, Pilie Aquino, Fortune Ledesma, Chit Gohu, Lita Gelano. The ladies held their 1st Christmas Bazaar last Oct. 9 at the Intercon Hotel, Makati City, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Their 2nd bazaar is on Dec. 4, same venue. For more information, call Maricris at 818-8468, 372-3083 and 810-3307.

COA, DOJ, OMBUDSMAN SIGN MOA

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo witnesses the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Commission on Audit (COA), the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Office of the Ombudsman regarding the investigation of corruption and anomalies in the transfer of real property titles. Shown signing the MOA at Malacañang's Rizal Hall are (from left): Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales and COA chair Guillermo Carague. Also in photo are Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Joaquin Lagonera (left) and Narciso Santiago Jr., Presidential Adviser for Revenue Enhancement.

PhilHealth lauds Rep. Golez' move to renew coverage of indigent families

THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORporation (PhilHealth) recently lauded Rep. Roilo Golez (2nd District, Parañaque) for passing a bill urging the National Government and PhilHealth to renew the coverage of indigent families enrolled under the Enhanced PCSO-GMA Program.

Through House Resolution No. 00456, Golez emphasized that due to the greater capacity of the program to promote the health of the poorest of the poor, efforts should be made to ensure that only bonafide residents of the sponsoring local government units (LGUs) directly receive the benefits.

The Resolution also states that there is a need to renew and revitalize the indigent program of PhilHealth in order to achieve its goal of socialized health care for qualified indigents.

Lorna O. Fajardo, officer-in-charge of the Office of the PhilHealth President and CEO thanked Rep. Golez for the said resolution. "We are grateful to Rep. Golez for passing this resolution because this will help us achieve universal coverage. We are hopeful that more Congressmen and other local chief executives will take time to look at what PhilHealth has to offer to their constituents and how it will help them create a healthy community."

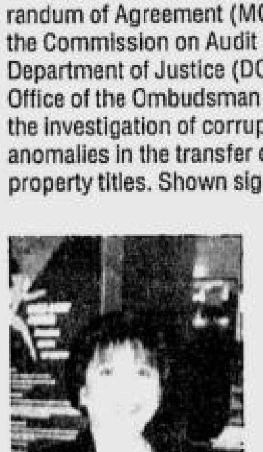
Fajardo added that PhilHealth has explained the payment schemes to LGUs in the enrollment of their indigent constituents. Through a series of meetings among PhilHealth, the Department of Budget and Management and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), a joint decision was made wherein PhilHealth will be giving first to third class cities and municipalities a "special premium counterpart contribution" to sustain the enrollment of three million families.

The Sponsored Program of PhilHealth caters to indigent members of a locality wherein payment for their enrollment are being shared by the National Government and their LGUs.

Once enrolled, members are given Family Health Cards that they can use for the availment of their hospitalization benefits. These include allowances for hospital room and board fees, for drugs and medicines used during confinement, for x-ray and other laboratory examinations, as well as for professional fees of attending physicians.

Enrolled indigent families may then avail themselves of out-patient diagnostic and preventive services such as complete blood count, urinalysis, fecalysis, sputum microscopy, annual digital rectal examination and periodic clinical breast exam, through the accredited rural health units (RHUs) in their localities.

To date, PhilHealth has 806 accredited RHUs and 1,572 accredited hospitals nationwide where indigent members may avail themselves of their PhilHealth benefits.

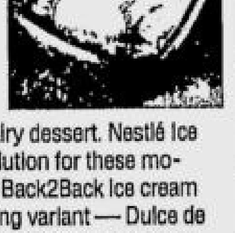


OUTSTANDING PHARMACIST

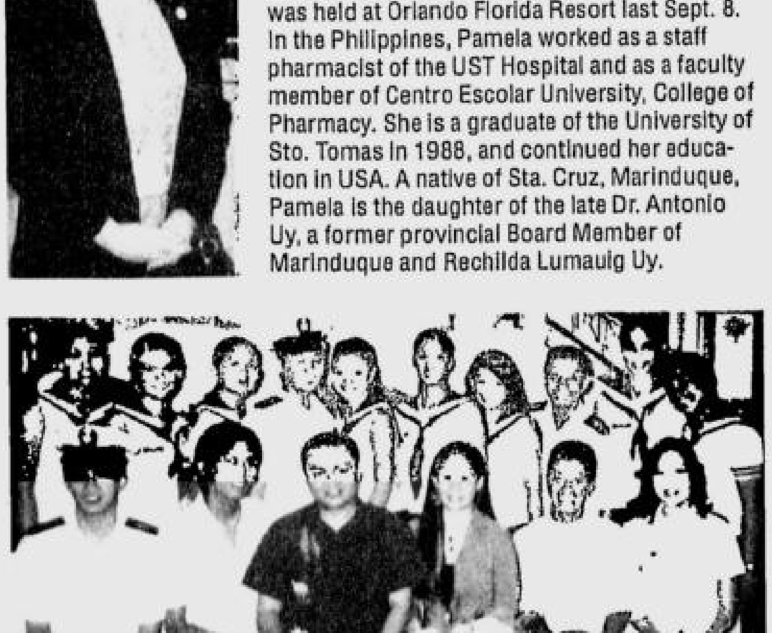
The CVS Pharmacy, one of the biggest chain of pharmacies in USA with 5,500 plus branches in the East Coast alone, awarded Maria Pamela Lumauig Uy as outstanding pharmacist of the year. Pamela, a USA licensed pharmacist and manager is based in Maryland. She has been with the company for 12 years. The awarding was held at Orlando Florida Resort last Sept. 8. In the Philippines, Pamela worked as a staff pharmacist of the UST Hospital and as a faculty member of Centro Escolar University, College of Pharmacy. She is a graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas in 1988, and continued her education in USA. A native of Sta. Cruz, Marinduque, Pamela is the daughter of the late Dr. Antonio Uy, a former provincial Board Member of Marinduque and Rechilda Lumauig Uy.

Product FILES

Nestlé Ice Cream's new Back2Back variant



IT'S SUNDAY AFTERnoon and everybody in the family is up for merienda. The kids want something sweet and fudgy, while mom and dad are craving for the familiar, creamy flavors of their favorite dairy dessert. Nestlé Ice Cream has the perfect solution for these moments with its innovative Back2Back ice cream tubs, now in a new, exciting variant — Dulce de Leche and Vanilla Caramel. It throws in chewy cashew nuts in the traditional Dulce de Leche ice cream for added taste and texture, and combines classic Vanilla with yummy swirls of thick caramel fudge. A tango of tempting tastes in one tub. Perfect for those moments when friends and family simply cannot decide which delicious Nestlé Ice Cream flavor to enjoy. Everyone is happy with Nestlé Ice Cream's Back2Back variant tubs. Continue to enjoy the other beloved Back2Back ice cream flavor combinations of Double Dutch and Chocolate, Cookies and Cream and Rocky Road, and Mango-Ube. Nestlé Ice Cream's Back2Back is available in 1.9 liter and 750ml sizes. Grab them now at favorite grocery stores, supermarkets, and retail outlets nationwide



PATTS STUDENTS HOLD MINI CONVENTION

Congratulations to the Tourism Organization Management Class - 2nd year, section 1T and 3T of PATTS College of Aeronautics for having successfully concluded their mini convention entitled 'Bon Voyage'. A journey to the Philippine Shipping Industry which was held at the Lotus Garden Hotel in Malate, Manila last Sept. 18. Seated from left are: Joemark Encabo, Jude Yanzon, Andres Regondola, Gina Fabros, Benjamin Hernandez and Criselda Ibraham

New Page One collection to be launched Oct. 15

ANVIL PUBLISHING INC, THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer and Powerbooks are co-hosting a seminar for Mass Communication teachers and students on Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Powerbooks, Greenbelt 4. The seminar marks the release of Page One: Book Two, published by the Inquirer. The much-awaited sequel to the groundbreaking Page One Book One, this new volume presents the most memorable front-page images of the Inquirer from 1996 to 2001. This coffee table book is a vivid collage of the country's significant events of the period such as Edsa 2, the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada, 9/11 and many more. Inquirer publisher Isagani M. Yambot and managing editor Abel S. Ulanday will speak on "The Science of Producing a Daily Newspaper" and "The Role of Newspapers in Philippine Society," respectively. Inquirer Books consultant Ruel S. De Vera will be moderating the discussion. The Inquirer and Anvil have co-published bestsellers such as The Best of Youngblood 1, Youngblood 2.0, The Best of A. Lipin by Jess Abrera and The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story by Amando Doronila. Registration starts at 9 a.m. For reservations and inquiries, please contact the Anvil Marketing Department at 747-16-22.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE VISAYAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to re-bid of the following project:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	CONTRACT DURATION
Supply of Security Services for UP in the Visayas campuses, Batan Mariculture Station, Marine Biological Station, Brackishwater Aquaculture Center, and its training & research vessel *"TRV Sardinella"*	■ Miagao Campus ■ Iloilo City Campus ■ Batan, Aklan ■ Taklong Island, Guimaras ■ Leganes, Iloilo ■ Iloilo City Pier	P 6,500,000.00	One (1) year

Prospective Bidders should have a capitalization of not less than P3M (to allow comparability of Bids), have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years, and have the key personnel and equipment (owned, leased, or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The Bidders are deemed to have become familiar with all existing laws, decrees, ordinances, acts and regulations of the Philippines which may affect the contract in any way.

The Schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedules	Venue
Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI)	October 20-24, 2005	BAC Secretariat, Miag-ao Campus
Issuance of Bid Documents	October 25-28, 2005	BAC Secretariat, Miag-ao Campus
Site Inspection	October 27-28, 2005	c/o Mr. Vicente Cortez, Chief, Security Services Office, UP Visayas
Pre-Bid Conference	November 2, 2005, 2:00 PM	Tea Room, Cafeteria Bldg., Iloilo City Campus
Opening of Bids	November 16, 2005, 2:00 PM	Tea Room, Cafeteria Bldg., Iloilo City Campus

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount the University Cashier of P5,000.00.

The University of the Philippines in the Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) DR. CARLOS C. BAYLON
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct 5 & 11, 2005)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MAXIMO U. MERCADO has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 269, Page No. 55, Book No. II, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Ma. Luz Victoria A. Ballesteros of Makati City.
(PDI-October 4, 11 & 18, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GAVINA VDA. DE ABIA consisting of a parcel of land located in Bago Bantay, Quezon City under TCT No.RT 91331 was extrajudicially settled by her sole heir thru self-adjudication with deed of absolute sale as per Doc. No. 361 Page 74 Book No. IV Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Julio A. Sebandal of Basey, Samar.
PDI-Sept 28, Oct.7&11, 2005

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The MIAA management will be conducting a public hearing for the imposition of a Security and Development Charge of US$5.00 on all international departing passengers to be held on October 26, 2005 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Board Room, 4th Floor, MIAA Administration Bldg., MIA Road, Pasay City.

This notice is hereby given to invite the public to participate in said hearing.

(Sgd.) ALFONSO G. CUSI
General Manager

(PDI – October 6 & 11, 2005)

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Interview will be held on Oct. 18-20, 2005 at Heritage Hotel, EDSA Pasay City. Please call Lilia Sta. Ana at 838-48-57; 0920-9525251 for the schedule.

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June 22, 1920 – October 6, 2005
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of Calbayog City

CHILDREN
Rafael and **Helen Marfori**, **Jaime Jr.**,
Annabella and **Joe Sajo**, **Pamela**,
Sheila and **Jimmie Policarpio**
Emmanuel (Lito), **Rosario Margarita**,
Jose Antonio (†), **Ma. Consuelo** and **Danilo Tan**
grandchildren and great grandchildren
request the pious readers to pray for
the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Penthouse of Mother Ignacia Bldg., at Gaerlan St., Cagayan de Oro City.

Funeral will be on October 13, 2005 at 3:00 P.M., Greenhills Memorial Park, Cagayan de Oro City

---

"Perhaps my time seemed all too brief; Don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your heart and share with me, GOD wanted me now, HE set me free."

LESTER D.G. MERCADO

(UP BA Batch 1997)

Peacefully joined our Creator
on October 8, 2005 at the age of 28.

He is survived by his parents **Edgardo** and **Evelyn**; sisters **Ronna** and **Raizelyn** and **Lola Mey**.

His remains lie in state at the San Nicolas Church (back of Cherry Foodarama), Project 6, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 13, 2005 after the 2 p.m. Mass at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude.
From the family of the late

Myra B. Lirio

of Nagcarlan, Laguna

Our Dearly Beloved

ENGRACIA "ANCHING" SEBASTIAN-ROSANES

peacefully joined her Creator on 9 October 2005
at the age of 98.

Holy Masses for her eternal peace and happiness will be offered daily at her residence in Alfonso, Cavite where her remains lie in state.

Interment will be on Sunday, 16 October 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at the Alfonso Public Cemetery.

We, the members of Anching's family, request all her friends to join us in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

In Loving Memory
on the 71st Birth Anniversary of

JOHNSON ROBERT L. GO, SR.

(OCTOBER 11, 1934 – DECEMBER 1, 2004)

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Q.C	6:00 p.m.
Immaculate Concepcion Parish, Antipolo City	6:00 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills West, San Juan	6:00 p.m.
Redemptorist Shrine, Baclaran, Pasay City	6:45 a.m.
Santo Domingo Chruch, Quezon Boulevard, Q.C.	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, San Juan	6:15 p.m.
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace, EDSA Cor Ortigas Avenue, Q.C.	5:30 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes, Makati City	6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Bel Air, Makati City	6:30 p.m.
St. Francis Parish Church, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City	6:00 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Aranaiz Street, Makati City	6:00 p.m.

As a tribute to him and his lifelong love for reading and knowledge, the first **JRL Go Children's Memorial Library** will be dedicated in his memory at 3:00 p.m. today at the Rizal Provincial Library, Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal. An enduring gift from those –

whose lives he enriched with his wisdom, humor, and quiet grace; who were inspired by the example of his fairness, deep humility, and strength of character; or who received so much from him than he ever asked in return.

We request for your prayers for him who selflessly shared his life of service to his family and wide circle of friends.

Honest. Sincere. Generous. A Man of Honor.

Constancio Kaluag Joson

Sta. Isabel, Malolos, Bulacan
July 8, 1921 to October 9, 2005
Survived by his wife **Nemesia S. Joson**
His youngest brother **Rogelio C. Joson**
His Children
Ymelda, Rafael, Annabelle, Constancio, Jr., Oscar, Joselito, Gilberto, Mitzi, Emmanuel, Peter Anthony, John Raymond, and their spouses.
His Grandchildren
Jan Michael, Joseph Martin, Carmella, Engelbert, Geraldine, Enrico, Julianna, Rafael, Austin, Isabelle, Gabriel Adolfo, Ysabelle, Anna Katrina, Madelene, Catherine Ann, Patrick, Mae Angeline, Jerrome, Anna Lorraine, Gilbert, Jr., Angelica, Joseph, Kristian, Matthew, Rebeka, Margaret, and Alphonse

We thank all who have shared unforgettable moments with him. His life had become a beautiful oil painting on canvass. His passion to give and help people unconditionally added to this MASTERPIECE.

His remains lie in state at the **Sta. Isabel Catholic Church Sanctuary**. **Interment** will take place at the **Sta. Isabel Catholic Cemetery** on **October 13, 2005**, after the **3:30 P.M.** Holy Mass celebration honoring his colorful life and jubilant spirit.

CONSTANCIA P. ALFAFARA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 08, 2005 at the age of 94.

She is survived by her children **Venus Lucia, Niemarlo, Marife & Edward "Bill"** and grandchildren.

Her body lies in state at Manresa & La Storta chapels at Loyola Memorial Chapels Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on October 11, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park Sucat, Parañaque City.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Rafaela Herrera de Villa	Chapel L, Q.C.	Oct. 15, 2005/12NN	Columbary, Q.C.
Rafael M. Gundayao, Sr.	Chapel 14, Q.C.	Oct. 16, 2005	Malasiqui, Pangasinan
Lydia G. Litonjua	Chapel 12, Q.C.	Oct. 12, 2005/12:30 PM	Malasiqui, Pangasinan

---

"For God so loved the world, that
He gave His only
begotten Son, that whoever
believes in Him
shall not perish but have
everlasting life." John 3:16

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BUSINESS

Makati Medical says group of investors offering to build new hospital wing

By Clarissa S. Batino

MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER SAID A GROUP OF FILipino investors had offered to invest about P3 billion in the hospital for the construction a new building.

Gabino Mendoza, president of Makati Med, said certain individual investors were planning to form a group and put up the amount needed to turn around and expand the operations of the hospital.

Mendoza said the hospital management was still studying the proposal.

The proposed new hospital building will be constructed on the parking lot beside the hospital, he said.

He, however, refused to identify the prospective investors.

"The plan to expand is getting to be more attractive now because we need to be more competitive."

He said the recovery of Makati Med was expected to accelerate after the workers' union decided not to push through with a planned strike.

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A World of Harmony
Zoltán Nyári
tenor
Dániel Vadász
tenor
Mónika Fischl
soprano
Zsuzsa Kalocsai
soprano
Operett MUSICAL
Miklós-Gábor Kerényi
artistic director
BUDAPEST OPERETTA THEATRE
István Silló
conductor
Alegria Ocampo Ferrer
soprano

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Toyota Classics 2005

November 13, 2005 | 6:30 PM, Sunday
The Cultural Center of the Philippines, Main Theater

Tickets available at TicketWorld Outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills) and on the TicketWorld website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891-5610 for inquiry and reservation.

TICKET PRICES : **Parterre** ₱12,000/box • **Lower Boxes** ₱10,000/box • **Upper Boxes** ₱8,000/box • **Orchestra Center** ₱1,200 • **Orchestra Side** ₱1,000 • **Balcony Center** ₱500 • **Balcony Side** ₱300

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Working in concert to build a better world

Lawsuit hasn't hurt mining in RP, says group

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE CHAMBER OF MINES OF THE Philippines yesterday said that the United States lawsuit over the 1996 mining disaster in Marinduque has not put a dent on the rosy prospects now facing the local industry.

According to Chamber of Mines chairman Artemio Disini, foreign mining firms are still keen on pursuing their interests here.

Disini also said that the chamber wants a quick resolution of the lawsuit the Marinduque provincial government filed against Canadian mining giant Placer Dome Inc.

The local government unit accused the Canadian firm of damaging the environment and health of local residents following the disaster.

The Marinduque mine, operated by Placer Dome partner Marcopper Mining Corp. of the Philippines, was closed by the Philippine government after the mining dam failed in 1996.

That year, millions of tons of open-pit copper mine waste found its way into the Boac river that runs through the provincial capital.

The lawsuit was filed in Nevada last week.

Disini said that the chamber is now a member of the multi-sectoral task force created by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to assess the repairs needed on the island.

The rehabilitation of the Marcopper mining site in Marinduque has again been put off until next year due to weather disturbances in the region.

According to DENR Undersecretary for mining concerns Deorado Dimalibot, the "joint scoping" of the area with Marcopper Mining Corp. has not been completed due to the weather disturbances that hampered their work in the recent weeks.

The lives of Marinduque residents continue to be at risk as a result of the delay in the rehabilitation of the area, according to a member of the local Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

According to a United States Geological Society study released last April, there are still traces of heavy metal and toxic wastes in Marinduque's waterways and tailing dams.

The USGS warned of another potential disaster in Marinduque and called for the immediate rehabilitation of the four mine tailings dams that used to be run by Marcopper.

BSP perks up lending to small businesses

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas wants to widen the banking system's scope for lending to the low-income segment in an effort to boost microfinance in the country.

During the National Microfinance Summit yesterday, the BSP announced plans to create a policy environment where efforts to offer loans to small businesses would be stepped up, while the regulator would see to it that banks' depositors and the financial system are protected.

"In some cases, it may entail more flexible provisions, while in other cases, it may entail rigorous standards," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said. "The ultimate objective is that the policies and regulations seriously consider the needs of banks with microfinance operations in order to increase outreach and sustainability."

Based on BSP data, there are nearly 200 banks in the country engaged in microfinance operations for over half a million small businesses.

The banks now provide each microentrepreneur an average of P6,000 collateral-free loan, marking a 200-percent increase since 2001 when the BSP declared microfinance as its flagship program for poverty alleviation.

The BSP is one of the very few central banks in the world with a framework to support microfinance, It was cited during the 2002 Microcredit Summit in New York for its pro-active stance.

The inter-agency National Credit Council also launched yesterday the performance standards for all types of microfinance institutions in the Philippines.

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INQBOX Question of the Week

Your message to the 4 Filipino boxing champions: Brian Viloria, Rey " Boom Boom " Bautista, Bobby Pacquiao and Manny Pacquiao?

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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Lift weights to stay young

IF YOUTHFULNESS IS DEFINED as the ability to function independently in your old age, then lifting weights is one of the fountains of youth.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

According to research, a 70-year-old sedentary person will have lost 40 percent of muscle mass and 30 percent of strength especially in the lower body. This means difficulty in walking, standing up from a sitting position, and activities of daily living like taking a bath or going to the toilet without assistance.

A study published in the Physician and Sports Medicine Journal found that muscle weakness and loss of balance and coordination caused 40 percent of adults over the age of 65 to fall at least once a year. Falls are a leading cause of fatal injury in people over 75.

The loss of muscle mass as one grows older is due to atrophy—a decrease in muscle fiber size and number. Some scientists believe the decrease is genetic and, therefore, an inevitable effect of aging.

However, the decrease is actually due to inactivity and can be reversed by resistance or strength training. Lifting weights is one example. Strength training also increases bone density and helps prevent osteoporosis or brittle bones.

Thus, it is actually people over 50 who need to lift weights the most.

Landmark study

A landmark study on strength training for the elderly was done in 1990 by Tufts University researchers in a nursing home. To really appreciate the significance of this study, you have to realize that participants (six women and four men) were frail 90-year-olds. They were by no means healthy.

Seven of them had osteoporosis, six even had fractures. Eight had a history of falls. Six had coronary artery disease. Four had high blood pressure. Six needed assistance with simple physical activities. Seven regularly used a cane.

After eight weeks of lifting weights three times a week, the researchers were amazed to discover that leg strength increased by 174 percent. Total thigh muscle area increased by nine percent.

Two of the participants no longer needed a cane. One of three people who couldn't get out of a chair without assistance could already do so without any help.

Although they lifted 80 percent of their lifting capability, considered "high intensity" strength training, their pulse rates and blood pressures changed very little. Those with arthritis did not get any worse.

First step

Subsequent studies in the last 15 years involving men and women 60-90 years old have all confirmed the benefits of resistance training for the elderly.

Many experts now recommend that strength training be the first step in the exercise program of an elderly person because it helps get the individual ready for endurance exercise like walking.

According to the Harvard Health Letter, "Many older people who are inactive but want to get moving may think that a pair of walking shoes is a wiser investment than a set of weights but the opposite may actually be true.

"People who have been sedentary for long periods are at high risk for falls because their muscle tone is weak, flexibility is often limited, and balance may be precarious. To reduce the risk of falls and injury, people over 60 who haven't recently been active should begin by strengthening their legs, arms and trunk muscles with three to four weeks of weight training (two to three times a week) before walking long distances or engaging in other aerobic exercise."

Exercise guidelines

The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) has specific strength training guidelines for people over 50 years old. ACSM recommends that older individuals would benefit greatly from weight-lifting sessions two to three times a week to strengthen all major muscle groups—arms, legs, shoulders and trunk. The weight should be heavy enough to fatigue the muscles in 10-15 repetitions.

LIFT/C3

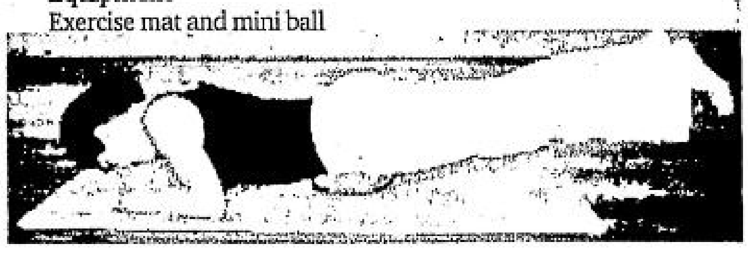
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Swan dive on mini ball

THIS PILATES-INSPIRED EXERCISE STRETCHES THE abdominal muscles and strengthens the back of the arms, buttocks and hamstrings.

Equipment

Exercise mat and mini ball

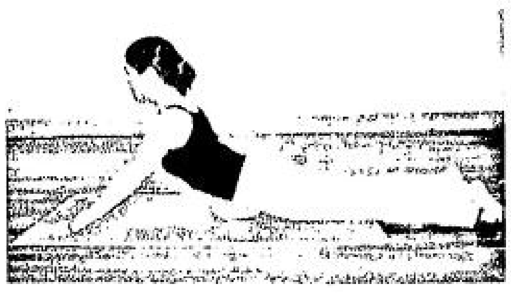


Exercise technique

1. Lie face down with the mini ball under your pelvis.
2. Lean on your forearms and lift both legs behind you by tightening buttock muscles.
3. Pull yourself upward by rolling forward on the mini ball and straightening your arms.
4. Return to starting position by bending the elbows, rolling backward, and lifting your legs.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips

1. Inhale as you roll upward; exhale as you lower torso down and roll backward.
2. Keep neck lengthened and shoulders away from the ears.
3. Keep buttocks tightened to lift the legs.



Repetitions

Do 10 repetitions.

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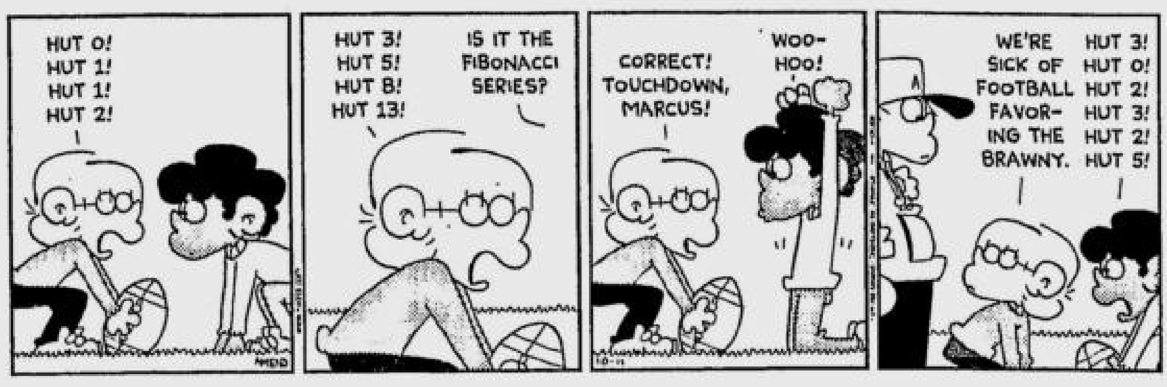
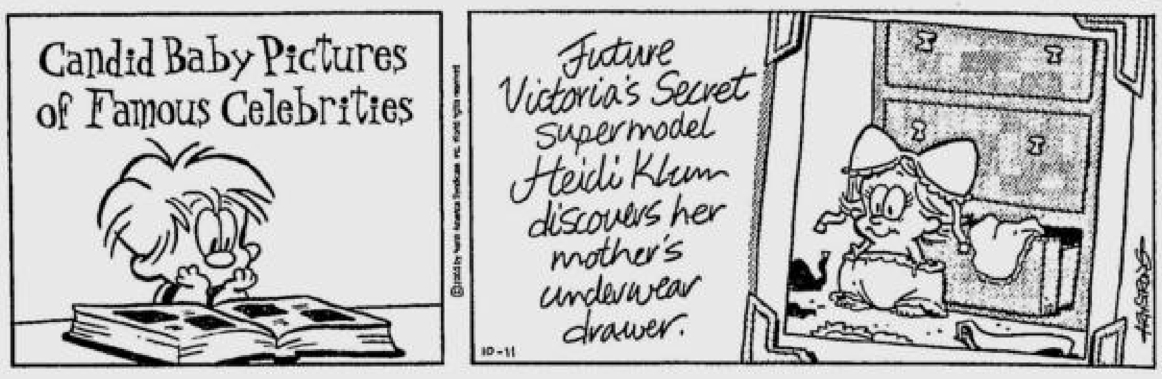
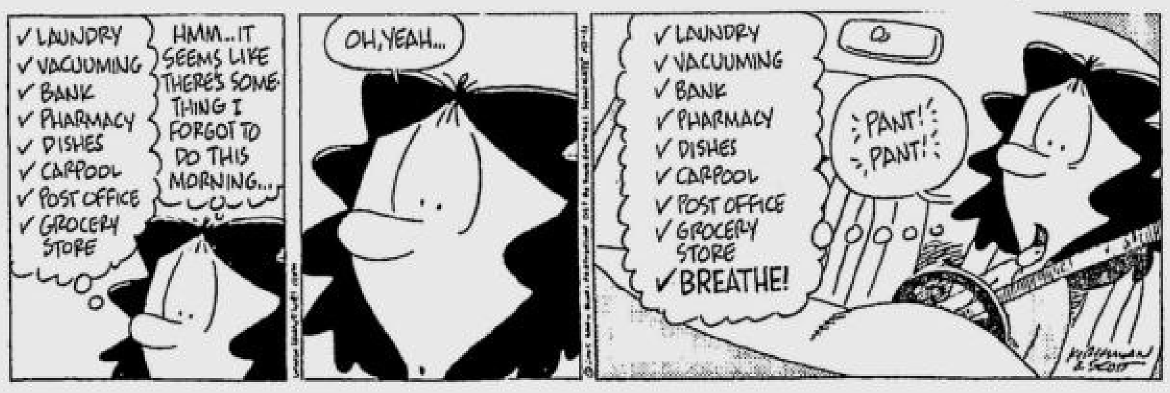
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


HUT 0! HUT 1! HUT 1! HUT 2!
HUT 3! HUT 5! HUT 8! HUT 13!
IS IT THE FIBONACCI SERIES?
CORRECT! TOUCHDOWN, MARCUS!
WOO-HOO!
WE'RE SICK OF FOOTBALL FAVORING THE BRAWNY.
HUT 3! HUT 0! HUT 2! HUT 3! HUT 2! HUT 5!

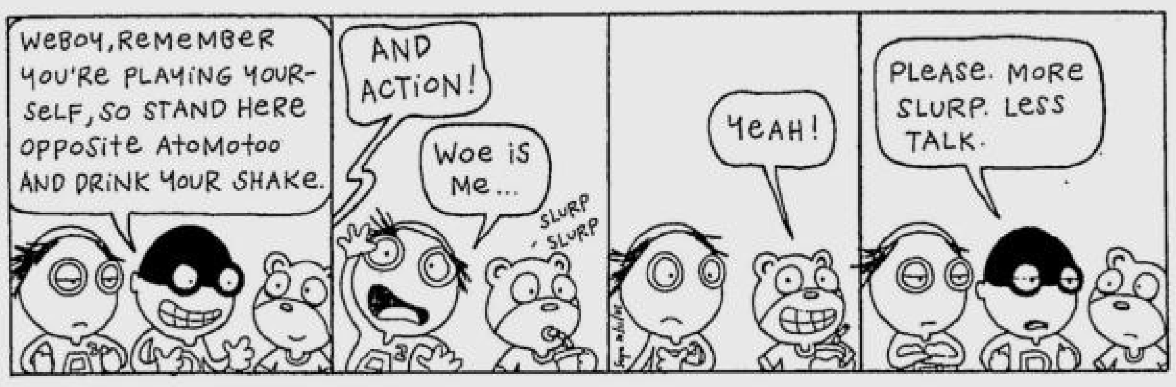
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


Candid Baby Pictures of Famous Celebrities
Future Victoria's Secret supermodel Heidi Klum discovers her mother's underwear drawer.
10-11

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


✓LAUNDRY ✓VACUUMING ✓BANK ✓PHARMACY ✓DISHES ✓CARPOOL ✓POST OFFICE ✓GROCERY STORE
HMM...IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING I FORGOT TO DO THIS MORNING...
OH, YEAH...
✓LAUNDRY ✓VACUUMING ✓BANK ✓PHARMACY ✓DISHES ✓CARPOOL ✓POST OFFICE ✓GROCERY STORE ✓BREATHE!
PANT! PANT!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY, REMEMBER YOU'RE PLAYING YOURSELF, SO STAND HERE OPPOSITE ATOMOTOO AND DRINK YOUR SHAKE.
AND ACTION!
WOE IS ME...
SLURP SLURP
YEAH!
PLEASE. MORE SLURP. LESS TALK.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're imaginative and exciting! People find you entertaining and charming. You're also very easygoing and pleasant. Your strong social skills allow you to relate successfully to all levels of society. In large measure, your skills guarantee your success in life. The year ahead is full of exciting, new, fresh beginnings. It's a new road for you!

Birthdate of: Elmore Leonard, novelist; Eleanor Roosevelt, former US first lady; Daryl Hall, singer/composer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Joint efforts between friends and groups might help people in another country or from another culture. Similarly, joint efforts can promote matters connected with publishing and the media.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): People notice you today! Whether you know it or not, you will call attention to yourself. Therefore, be on your best behavior. First impressions count for a lot.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Join forces with someone today to do something exciting and different. You feel like you're on an adventure. Conversations are friendly and supportive. You're affectionate with others.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day to share things with others. You might receive a gift or favor from someone, especially a partner or close friend. Think about how you can return the favor.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a favorable day to talk to partners, close friends and members of the general public. It's easy to establish a friendly give-and-take. Unexpected flirtations could please you!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): On the whole, this is a good day at work. People are cooperative. You don't have to push yourself too hard to accomplish things. Everything sort of falls into place nicely.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today the Moon is on lovely terms with your ruler, Venus. This makes you flirtatious, friendly and very interested in the arts. All things beautiful call your name!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with family members, especially a parent, will go well today. Since partnerships have been difficult lately, perhaps you need to talk to someone?

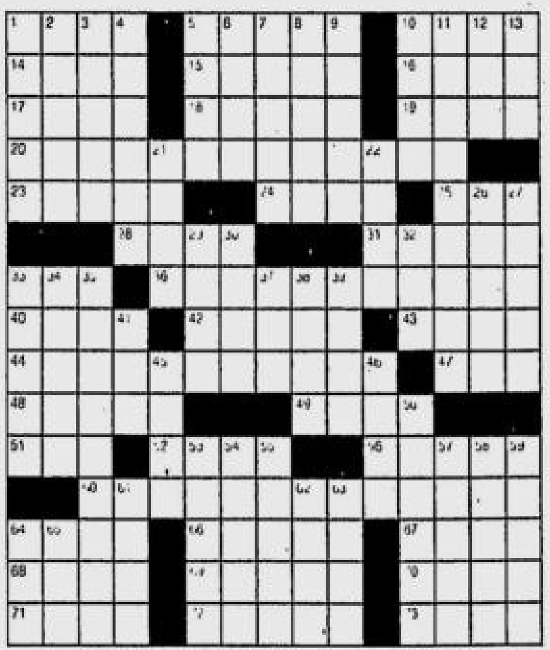
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have the gift of gab today. Enjoy discussions with neighbors, siblings and relatives. You have big ideas for plans ahead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might be able to earn money by working behind the scenes today. Contact with the government could be another favorable source of profit for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): A female friend can be sympathetic and helpful to you today. Set aside time for a heart-to-heart talk with someone. Don't be afraid to share your inner feelings and insecurities.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a pretty good day to deal with VIPs, bosses and the government. It's easy to get agreement or permission if you need it. (At least try.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL
10/11/05

ACROSS
1 Liquid asset
5 Seventh heaven
10 Quahog
14 Wield the scepter
15 Noon event
16 Luminous ring
17 Olfactory prod
18 Davis of filmdom
19 Tidbit
20 Be impartial
23 J.D. Rockefeller's 1870 company
24 Sharp point
25 Hot tub
28 Freebie
31 One in a cast
33 Thoughtful letters
36 Be impartial
40 Sink or swim?
42 Trick's partner?
43 Approve
44 Be impartial
47 "L.A. Law" actress Susan
48 Awards telecast figure
49 O'Neal of basketball
51 Shatner novel "__ War"
52 Expel
56 Debonair
60 Be impartial
64 Out-of-control
66 Slender candle
67 Long duration
68 Skunk River state
69 Scratching (out)
70 Steadfast
71 Turn down
72 Landlord's revenues
73 Spotted

DOWN
1 Irv or Ben
2 Sound
3 Slow-moving mammal
4 Intrepid
5 Escutcheon flaw
6 Overgrown
7 Map within a map
8 "Star Wars" genre
9 Luster
10 Smart and fashionable
11 What's in now
12 Schooner fill
13 Lady of the house
21 Secluded location
22 In order
26 Aplomb
27 Pretentious
29 Portion (out)
30 Lima's nation
32 Flatfoot
33 Remote target?
34 Helpful one's request
35 Get tough
37 Favorite
38 Thole inserts
39 Zion National Park's state
41 Side issue
45 Noble gas
46 Maiden
50 Hushes
53 Out-and-out
54 Financial interest
55 Gimme putt
57 Revere
58 Meeting location
59 Ruhr city
61 Green light
62 Superman's alias
63 Joule fractions
64 Assistance
65 "The Simpsons" barkeep

Monday's Puzzle Solved

J	O	B	S	■	C	H	E	F	S	■	I	T	C	H
U	N	I	T	■	L	O	L	L	Y	■	N	O	R	A
L	O	C	O	M	O	T	I	O	N	■	S	T	I	R
■	■	■	P	O	S	T	A	G	E	S	T	A	M	P
A	T	A	■	P	E	I	■	■	■	Y	E	L	P	S
C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	C	A	M	P	■	■	■
E	Q	U	I	P	■	■	O	U	R	S	■	J	E	T
R	U	S	E	■	A	Z	U	R	E	■	F	A	D	E
B	F	F	■	F	L	I	T	■	■	S	U	P	E	R
■	■	■	W	R	I	T	E	R	S	C	R	A	M	P
M	A	M	I	E	■	■	■	E	T	A	■	H	A	S
A	L	A	D	D	I	N	S	L	A	M	P	■	■	■
C	I	T	E	■	F	O	C	A	L	P	O	I	N	T
A	B	E	L	■	F	L	O	C	K	■	T	R	I	O
W	I	R	Y	■	Y	A	T	E	S	■	S	E	X	Y

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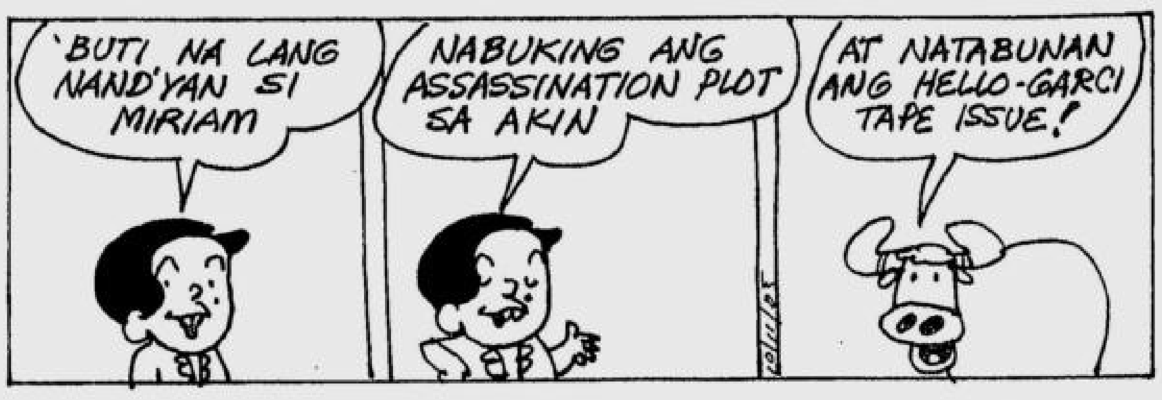
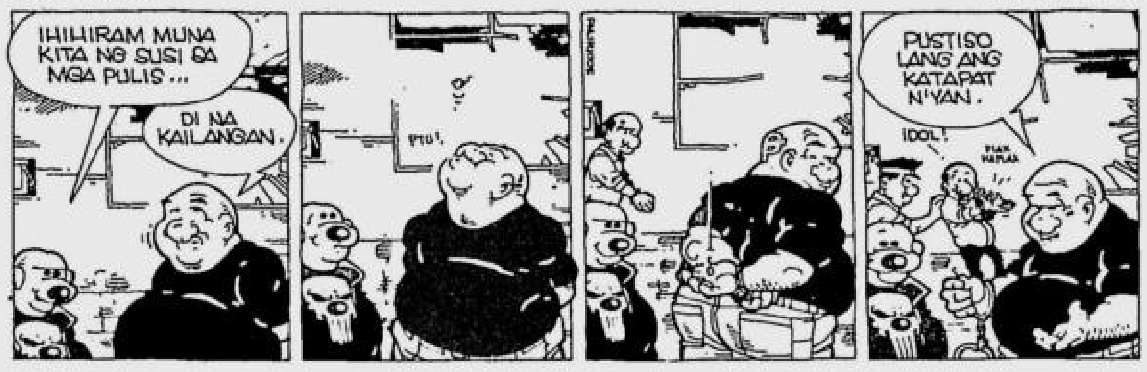
10/11/05

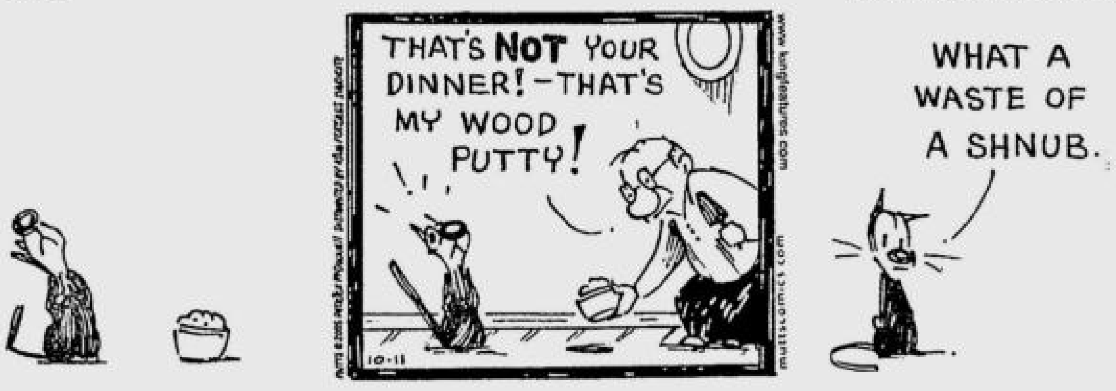
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


BUTI NA LANG NAND'YAN SI MIRIAM
NABUKING ANG ASSASSINATION PLOT SA AKIN
AT NATABUNAN ANG HELLO-GARCI TAPE ISSUE!

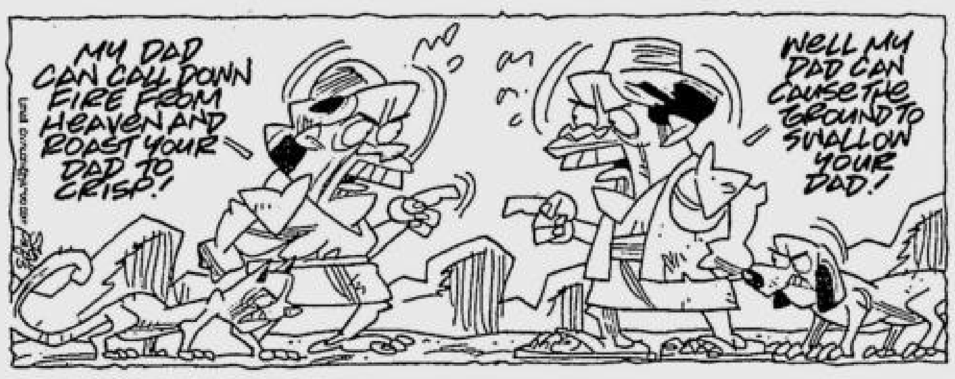
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


IHIHIRAM MUNA KITA NG SUSI SA MGA PULIS...
DI NA KAILANGAN.
PTU!
PUSTISO LANG ANG KATAPAT N'YAN.
IDOL!

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

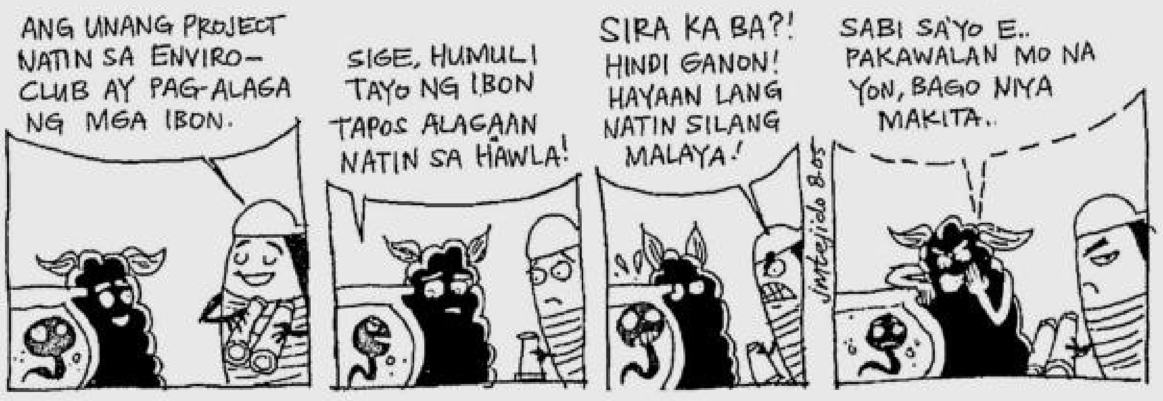

THAT'S NOT YOUR DINNER!–THAT'S MY WOOD PUTTY!
10-11
WHAT A WASTE OF A SHNUB.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

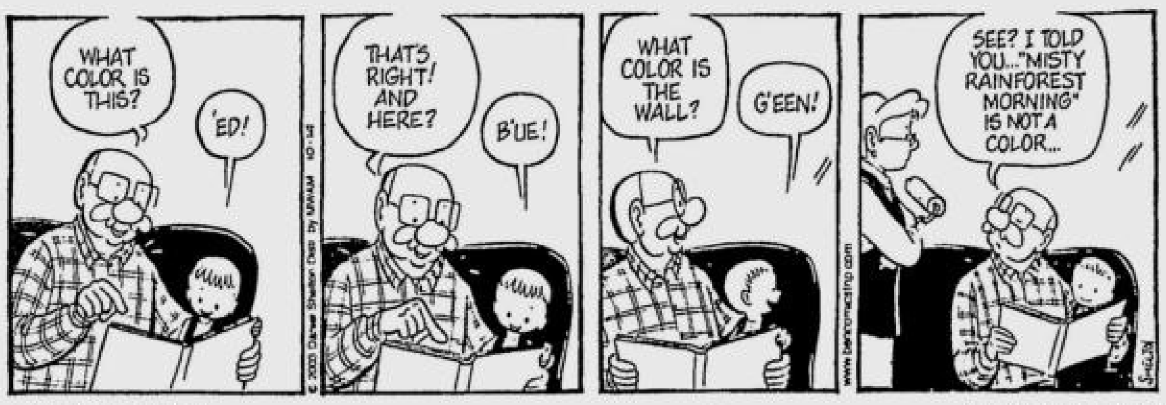

MY DAD CAN CALL DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN AND ROAST YOUR DAD TO CRISP!
WELL MY DAD CAN CAUSE THE GROUND TO SWALLOW YOUR DAD!

QUARRELLING PROPHETS' CHILDREN

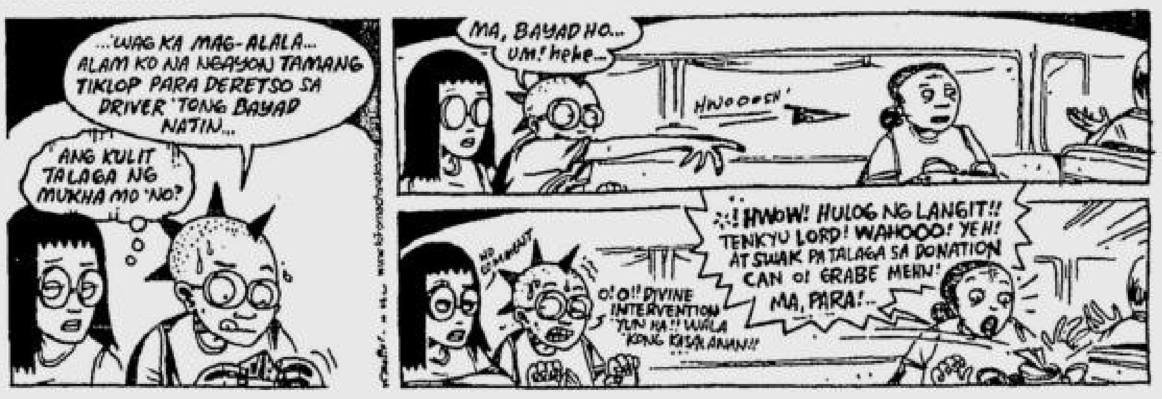
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG UNANG PROJECT NATIN SA ENVIRO-CLUB AY PAG-ALAGA NG MGA IBON.
SIGE, HUMULI TAYO NG IBON TAPOS ALAGAAN NATIN SA HAWLA!
SIRA KA BA?! HINDI GANON! HAYAAN LANG NATIN SILANG MALAYA!
SABI SA'YO E.. PAKAWALAN MO NA YON, BAGO NIYA MAKITA..
Jmtejido 8.05

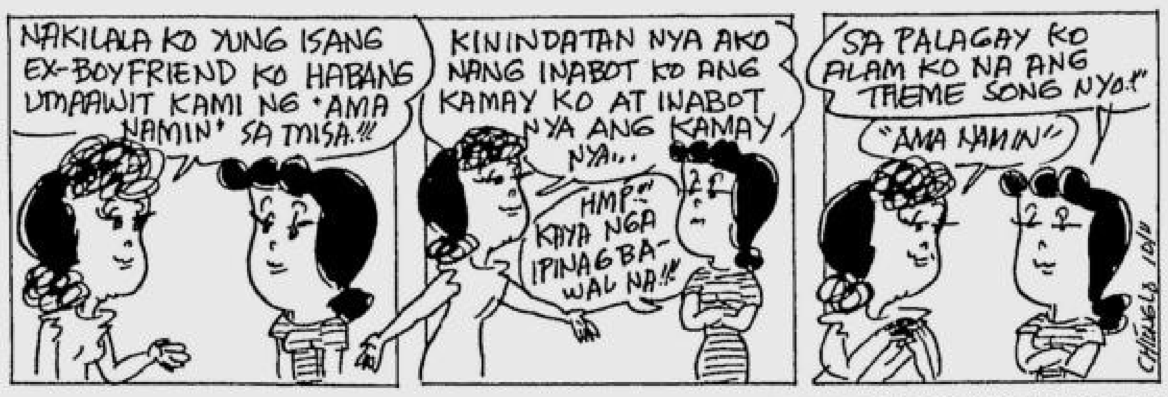
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT COLOR IS THIS?
'ED!
THAT'S RIGHT! AND HERE?
B'UE!
WHAT COLOR IS THE WALL?
G'EEN!
SEE? I TOLD YOU..."MISTY RAINFOREST MORNING" IS NOT A COLOR...

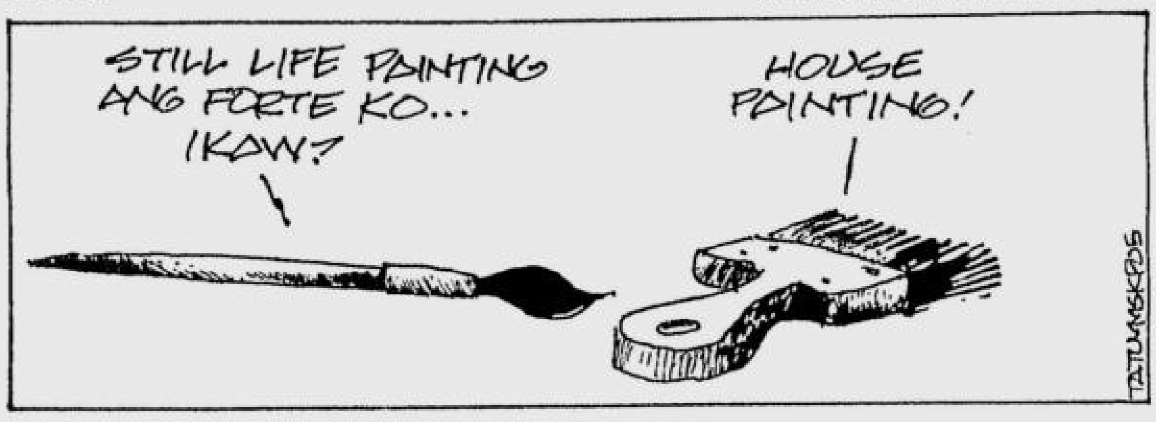
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


...'WAG KA MAG-ALALA... ALAM KO NA NGAYON TAMANG TIKLOP PARA DERETSO SA DRIVER 'TONG BAYAD NATIN...
ANG KULIT TALAGA NG MUKHA MO 'NO?
MA, BAYAD HO... UM! hehe...
HWOOOSH!
!HWOW! HULOG NG LANGIT!! TENKYU LORD! WAHOOO! YEH! AT SWAK PA TALAGA SA DONATION CAN o! GRABE MEHN!
MA, PARA!
O! O!! DIVINE INTERVENTION 'YUN HA!! WALA 'KONG KASALANAN!!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAKILALA KO YUNG ISANG EX-BOYFRIEND KO HABANG UMAAWIT KAMI NG "AMA NAMIN" SA MISA.!!!
KININDATAN NYA AKO NANG INABOT KO ANG KAMAY KO AT INABOT NYA ANG KAMAY NYA...
HMP!! KAYA NGA IPINAGBAWAL NA!!
SA PALAGAY KO ALAM KO NA ANG THEME SONG NYO.!
"AMA NAMIN"
CHIONGLO 10/11

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


STILL LIFE PAINTING ANG FORTE KO... IKAW?
HOUSE PAINTING!

NIVEA'S YOUNG ACHIEVERS: Roselle Cua, Lourdes Duran, Alice Cayaban, Belle Ortega, brilliant marketing director Rica King and Ida Dizon

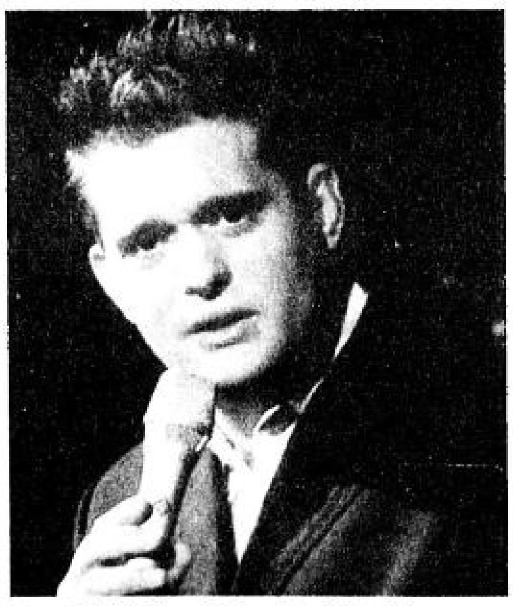
WOMEN movers and shakers: Entrepreneur Christine San Diego with TV host Dyan Castillejo and MTV's Joey Mead

MY *PALANGGA*, Jenni Epperson, with perky Rosario Herrera and Raymond Gutierrez

Whitewashed

HIP and fun gals Leigh Carcel and Kate Torralba

INTERNATIONAL designer Rhett Eala with vivacious Carmina Sanchez



MR. DREAM boy Michael Bublé will have Cosmo Manille swooning again over his velvety voice at the Araneta Coliseum.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THOUGH THE BLACK DRESS SEEMS to be back in vogue, the ever cool Nivea went fabulously and fashionably white, dahlings.

Nivea Visage celebrated beauty, fashion and femininity as it launched a new product with a breakthrough whitening formula—the Nivea Visage Multiple White range.

The Rockwell Tent was jam-packed for the glamorous event that the air-conditioning seemed unable to cool sufficiently the fashionable mob that showed up in their most refreshingly cool white outfits.

Nivea's marketing director, the brilliant and fashionable **Rica King**, looked absolutely divine in her simple white outfit as she presented Nivea's new Multiple White Line range: the Whitening Cream 20+, Whitening Cream 30+, Whitening Fluid, Whitening Night Cream, Whitening Foam, Whitening Scrub and Whitening Toner.

Palanggas, if you still don't turn white with this whole range, give up and wave the white flag.

Rica told us, "Our new range of products from Nivea Visage Multiple White line is formulated specifically to provide whitening skin care for women in any age group.

"It not only whitens skin but is suited to the skin requirements of women from 20 onward," she said with a smile.

The swinging event also introduced gorgeous beauties **Susi** and **Hannah**, the new faces behind the Nivea Visage Multiple White line, who were flown in from Bangkok and Los Angeles, respectively. Later we got a sneak peek at the Nivea Visage Multiple White line's eye-catching television commercial.

Moi spotted star-maker **Joji Dingcong**, talented kart racing champ **Matteo Guidicelli**; star cager **Doug Kramer**; designers **Astrud Crisologo** and **Rhett Eala**, plus so many others in white, *palanggas*.

Much later, it was rocking and rolling in the Tent with multifaceted young PR man and hot DJ **GP Reyes**, who spun hot and funky tunes that kept everyone literally hot as they danced.

Superbly hosted by TV personalities **Chynna Hortaleza** and **Pinky Webb**, the happening was highlighted by an "Ode to White Beauty," a stunning showcase of white fashion from our top and up-and-coming designers.

Glamorous film and TV personalities and world-class models, including **Cherie Gil** and **Patti Betita**, exuded infinite grace and poise on the catwalk .

Coming up with hugely successful events like this, which was superbly organized by **Edd Fuentes** of Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., and introducing innovative products that are perfect for women's skin, truly show that Nivea is in on what women really want, *palanggas*.

Bublé returns

Suave, good-looking and extremely talented Canadian crooner **Michael Bublé** will be back to enthrall his local fans. He will be flying in from Sydney for his Oct. 12 performance at the Araneta Coliseum.

Expect music lovers and hopeless romantics of all ages to swoon once again over Bublé. His silky baritone and smooth rendition of classics are unforgettable, *palanggas*.

His Oct. 12 concert is expected to be more exciting. He has a new compact disc, "It's Time," released early this year and has sold millions of copies worldwide. In Manille, he will be accompanied by his fab 12-member band.

Bublé's concert is presented by Smart Infinity; SunLife Financial; Rado and Joey 92.3. Co-presentors are Siematic, Sub-Zero, Philippine Airlines and Smart Gold plus so many others.

For tickets, call Ticketnet at 9115555, or visit the Araneta Coliseum Box Office and SM Ticketnet outlets in SM Department Stores. Ticket prices are P3,654, P2,871; P1,827, P836. Credit card purchases will be charged an additional five percent.

ULTRA-GLAM world-class model Annette Coronel

JOMARI Yllana with Nivea Visage Multiple White international models Susi and Hannah

LEN Inc.'s Marilen Nuñez

HIP young model Nicolette Bell

KART racing champ and Swatch boy, Cebu's pride Matteo Guidicelli

Miracle foods from the Bible

From page C4

For rheumatism, kidney stones, obesity, take as a tea three times daily. Dandelion tea can be found in health food stores today. In combination with watercress, it makes the body highly energized.

Date, the fruit of a palm, is called the food of the desert. Common in the Jordan Valley, this fruit is said to remove testicle tumors. Crushed date pits are also considered remedies for uterine and stomach tumors.

A drink of fresh pitted dates, juiced or blendered, is highly beneficial.

Healing affirmation:

"I bless the goodness of nature's wonders as I bless myself."

Love and light!

Reference: "Miracle Food Cures from the Bible" by Reese Derbin

(Special thanks to Sister Eva and Brother Ernie Rodriguez of South City Church, Alabang for lending me their book.)

Lift weights to stay young

From page C1

Safety tips

A sedentary senior citizen who wants to do strength training should get a medical clearance.

Strength training can be done at home or in the gym. But seniors should be taught to do the exercises properly by a fitness professional.

While strength machines are considered safer because they have more support, some experts recommend using free weights like dumbbells and leg weights because they develop posture and balance—precisely the functional skills many elderly people lack.

Elderly exercisers need to be taught to breathe regularly while exercising since holding the breath while lifting weights can elevate blood pressure.

Although the United States Arthritis Foundation recommends strength training for all types of arthritis, some arthritis sufferers may experience flare-ups when lifting weights. If you experience pain two hours after exercise, reduce the intensity and duration of exercise.

Use slow movement when lifting and lowering the weight.

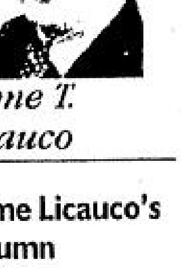
Be patient. It may take several weeks to adapt to the initial stress of the training program.

Special importance should be placed on stretching exercises to keep all joints flexible. Stretching can be done every day.

Other forms

Lifting weights or "pumping iron" is not the only form of strength training senior citizens can do. Rubber resistance or exercise rubber bands are just as effective. Other non-traditional forms are strength exercises done in the water (what is commonly known as "aqua aerobics"), modified yoga poses, and Pilates. Tai Chi can also be strength training for the legs.

INNER AWARENESS



Jaime T. Licauco

Jaime Licauco's column will appear next week.

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Miracle foods from the Bible

Part 2

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

FOODS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE STILL exist to this day. And until now we can avail of ancient cures from natural sources like plants.

Last Supper dessert

"Keeping the Passover" is a ceremony that has largely remained unchanged for 30 centuries. Jesus had a ceremonial meal that included bitter herbs, unleavened bread, lamb, parsley, and a dessert called charoset (or haroset).

The dessert is a mixture of chopped apples, walnuts, raisins, dates, cinnamon, wine and honey. Medicinal plants were mixed in with this dish, which could relieve ailments like heart pain, dissolve gallstones/kidney stones, boost an underactive thyroid, and make warts, herpes, acne, psoriasis disappear.

Walnuts contain omega 3 fatty acids that have anti-inflammatory effect. They are good for arthritis, rheumatism, heart disease. A handful of walnuts daily is enough to ease fatigue, swelling and mental sluggishness.

Parsley is an excellent diuretic, cleansing the body. It is good for allergic sneezing, kidney inflammation/stones, prostate pressure and enlargement, menopausal joint pains and shoulder pain. Parsley contains 22,500 units of vitamin A per ounce, more vitamin C than a handful of oranges, and more iron than spinach.

Parsley tea:

½ c fresh parsley
2 pints water

In an enamel or glass saucepan, bring to a boil. Simmer for 10 minutes. Strain. Cool. Drink one cup after meals.

Caution: Parsley is not for pregnant women as it can cause uterine contractions.

Celery, a member of the parsley family, is used to neutralize uric acid and gout. The seed is also a diuretic (increases urine production) and relieves blood pressure. It can boost a lazy menstrual cycle. One of its best-known benefits is to lower blood sugar levels and relieve facial neuralgia (severe burning or stabbing pain often following the course of a nerve).

University of Chicago Medical Center researchers discovered that the 3-N-futylyphthalide in celery could lower cholesterol in animals.

Dosage: Four stalks of celery daily for one week will achieve significant health benefits. Or, take celery seed tea three times a day after meals.

Green juice: In a juicer, place 4-5 stalks of celery. Add cucumber to improve the taste. Drink up.

Sheep Sorrel, considered a miracle herb, it's a powerful infection fighter. It detoxifies the stomach, stimulates the appetite and relieves nausea, vomiting, ulcers and abscesses. More importantly, it has anti-cancer properties.

Herbal brew:

1 lb sheep sorrel (powdered)
6-1/2 c of burdock root (cut)
¼ lb slippery elm (powdered)
1 ounce Turkish rhubarb root (powdered)

Mix ingredients and place in a dark cupboard.

Essiac tonic (Rene Carsse's formula):

Use one ounce of herb to 1 quart of water. Boil for 20 minutes. Cool. Strain.

After it has been sitting for 10-12 hours, heat again until boiling. Let settle.

Strain. Place in hot sterilized bottles. Let cool. Store in a dark place. Drink.

Dosage: Take one ounce of essiac with 2 ounces of warm water every second day at bedtime on an empty stomach.

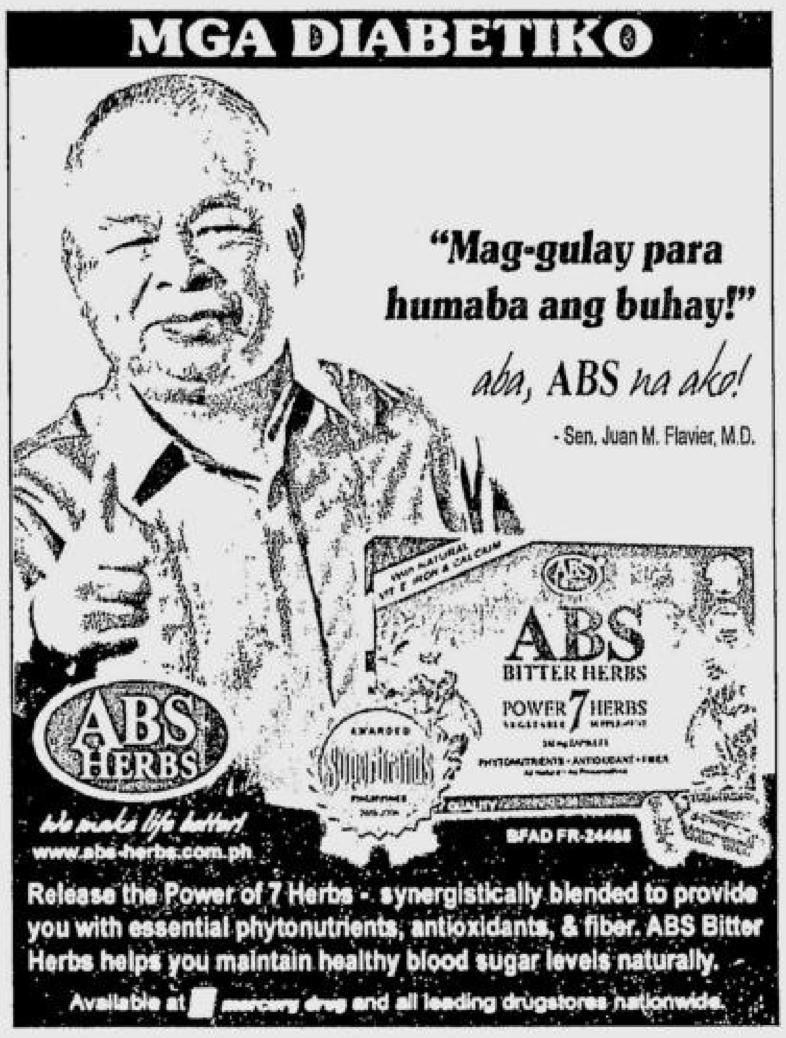
Don't eat or drink after taking this tonic. No medication can be taken with it.

Allow three hours between intake of any medicine and essiac.

Treatment duration: 32 days then every three days.

Dandelion shoots contain boron that raises estrogen levels and prevents osteoporosis. The bitter herb was used in the Last Supper.

MIRACLE/ C3


MGA DIABETIKO
"Mag-gulay para humaba ang buhay!"
aba, ABS na ako!
- Sen. Juan M. Flavier, M.D.
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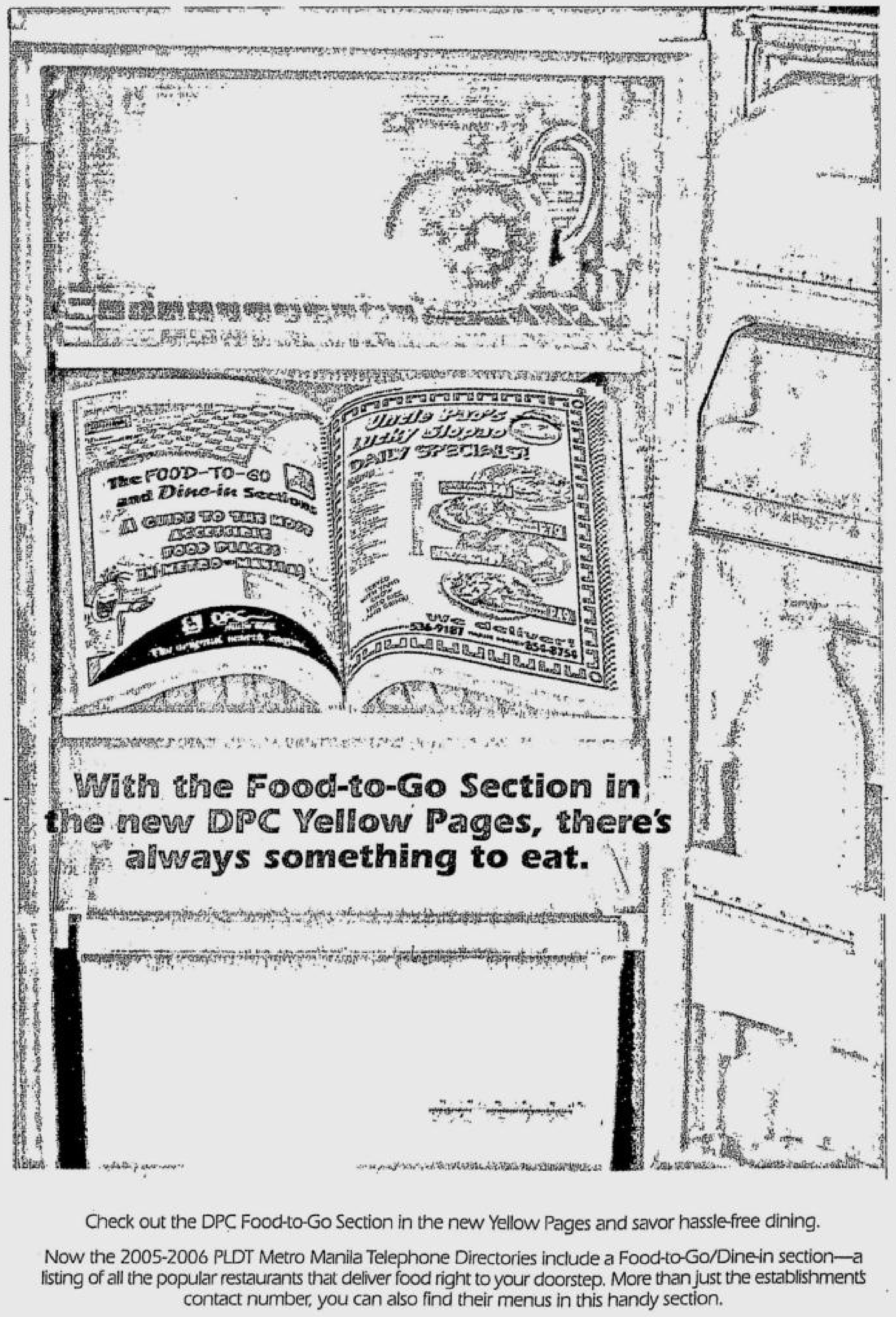
The FOOD-TO-GO and Dine-in Sections
With the Food-to-Go Section in the new DPC Yellow Pages, there's always something to eat.

Check out the DPC Food-to-Go Section in the new Yellow Pages and savor hassle-free dining.

Now the 2005-2006 PLDT Metro Manila Telephone Directories include a Food-to-Go/Dine-in section—a listing of all the popular restaurants that deliver food right to your doorstep. More than just the establishment's contact number, you can also find their menus in this handy section.

There are also Grid Maps, Zip Codes, Tax Calendars, Philippine Facts and Figures, Conversion and Measurement Tables, Road and Traffic Signs, World in Focus, First Aid tips and how to get an NSO Certificate and NBI Clearance. So you get more than just business names, their telephone numbers and addresses. It's more than Yellow, more than just Pages, making your telephone directory more useful everyday.

Get your 2005-2006 PLDT Metro Manila Telephone Directories from any of these PLDT offices:
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DPC YELLOW PAGES
Let your fingers do the walking

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

Will injury to the breast result to breast cancer?

Breast cancer continues to be the leading type of cancer among Filipino women. About 14,043 new cases of breast cancer are projected to occur in 2005 based on a report by the Philippine Cancer Society. There have been many factors implicated in the development of breast cancer but injury or trauma to the breast is not included. Among the many factors that have been shown to increase the likehood of getting the disease: older age, early onset or late cessation of menstruation, older maternal age at first childbirth or never having given birth, prior history of breast cancer, previous radiation therapy to the breast and chest area, dense breast tissue on mammography, intake of estrogen and progesterone for extended periods and drinking of alcoholic beverages. Having one or more of these risk factors does not necessarily mean that a woman will develop breast cancer and a large number of women diagnosed to have breast cancer has none of these factors, other than that which comes from growing older.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Calamba Medical Center and HealthServ Los Baños, Dr. Mylene M. Estefa. She specializes in IM-Oncology. She earned her medical degree from UP College of Medicine in 1996. She took her residency training for Internal Medicine at UP-PGH Medical Center in 2001 and later had her subspecialization training in Oncology in the same hospital. Dra. Estefa is a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians and Philippine Society of Medical Oncology. MEDICard members may visit her for consultation services at Calamba Medical Center, Room 3102, Tuesdays & Friday from 1pm-4pm, Thursdays from 9am - 1pm and HealthServ Los Baños Mondays & Saturdays from 1pm -3pm

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

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